

Acts 21:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when we had accomplished those days, we departed and went our way; and they all brought us on our way, with wives and children, till we were out of the city: and we kneeled down on the shore, and prayed.

Analysis

They all brought us on our way (προπέμπω, propémpō)—The early church practice of escorting travelers demonstrated covenant loyalty and practical care. The inclusion of 'wives and children' in this farewell underscores the family nature of first-century Christianity. **We kneeled down on the shore, and prayed**—Public prayer at the water's edge recalls biblical precedents (Acts 16:13) and demonstrated the church's dependence on God rather than human strength. This communal intercession before Paul's dangerous journey manifested genuine spiritual fellowship.

Historical Context

Seven-day stays in port cities were common while cargo was loaded and unloaded. The Tyrian church, established after Stephen's martyrdom (Acts 11:19), had grown to include families, showing the gospel's generational impact within two decades.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does your faith community demonstrate care through 'sending on the way' those embarking on difficult missions?
2. What role does corporate, public prayer play in strengthening believers facing uncertain or dangerous callings?

Interlinear Text

ὅτε δὲ ἐγένετο ἡμᾶς ἐξαρτίσαι τὰς ἡμέρας ἐξελθόντες
when And had us accomplished those days we departed
G3753 G1161 G1096 G2248 G1822 G3588 G2250 G1831

ἐπορευόμεθα προπεμπόντων ἡμᾶς πάντων σὺν γυναιξὶν
and went our way brought us and they all with wives
G4198 G4311 G2248 G3956 G4862 G1135

καὶ τέκνοις ἔως ἔξω τῆς πόλεως καὶ θέντες
and children till we were out of the city and we kneeled down
G2532 G5043 G2193 G1854 G3588 G4172 G2532 G5087

τὰ γόνατα ἐπὶ τὸν αἰγιαλὸν προσηκάμεθα,
G3588 G1119 on G3588 the shore and prayed
G1909 G123 G4336

Additional Cross-References

Acts 20:36 (Prayer): And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all.

Acts 15:3 (Parallel theme): And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.

Acts 20:38 (Parallel theme): Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. And they accompanied him unto the ship.

Acts 9:40 (Prayer): But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

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