

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	G3588	those days	we departed
G3753	G1161	G1096	G2248	G1822		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	ἕως	ἔξω	τῆς	πόλεως	καὶ	θέντες
and	children	till	we were out of	G3588	the city	and	we kneeled down
G2532	G5043	G2193	G1854		G4172	G2532	G5087
τὰ	γόνατα	ἐπὶ	τὸν	αἰγιαλὸν	προσηυξάμεθα,		
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.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org