

Acts 21:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when we had taken our leave one of another, we took ship; and they returned home again.

Analysis

When we had taken our leave (ἀσπάζομαι, aspázomai)—The Greek conveys affectionate farewell between believers who may never meet again on earth. The pattern of 'we took ship; and they returned home again' captures the bittersweet reality of Christian mission—some are called to go, others to stay and sustain home communities. Both callings serve God's kingdom purposes, neither superior to the other. This verse exemplifies the mutual love and painful partings that characterized early church relationships.

Historical Context

Maritime travel in the first century involved significant risk and uncertainty. Farewells like this carried weight because shipwreck, piracy, or persecution could mean permanent separation. The Tyrian believers' return 'home' suggests stable Christian community established in their city.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you view the calling to 'stay and sustain' versus the calling to 'go and pioneer' in kingdom work?
2. What does this passage teach about maintaining meaningful Christian fellowship despite geographic separation?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἀσπασάμενοι	ἀλλήλους	ἐπέβημεν	εἰς	τὸ
And	when we had taken our leave	one of another	we took	G1519	G3588
G2532	G782	G240	G1910		
πλοῖον	ἐκεῖνοι	δὲ	ὑπέστρεψαν	εἰς	τὰ ἴδια
ship	they	and	again	G1519	G3588
G4143	G1565	G1161	G5290		G2398

Additional Cross-References

John 19:27 (Parallel theme): Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.