

Acts 23:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.

Analysis

The conspiracy formed 'when it was day' shows the plotters' immediate and determined hatred. Their binding oath to 'eat nothing until they had killed Paul' demonstrated fanatical zeal that valued murder over self-preservation. This echoes Jesus's warning about those who 'kill you, thinking they do God service' (John 16:2), showing how religious extremism corrupts moral judgment.

Historical Context

Such binding oaths were serious in Jewish culture, invoking divine curse if violated. However, rabbinic law provided loopholes for oaths made for illegal purposes, so the conspirators likely had ways to escape their vow.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How can religious conviction become twisted into justifying violence and wickedness?
2. What safeguards keep your religious zeal from turning into destructive extremism?

Interlinear Text

Γενομένης δὲ ἡμέρας ποιήσαντες τινες τῶν Ἰουδαίων
when it was And day banded together certain G3588 of the Jews
G1096 G1161 G2250 G4160 G5100 G2453

συστροφὴν ἀνεθεμάτισαν ἐαυτοὺς λέγοντες μήτε φαγεῖν
G4963 and bound themselves saying neither eat
G332 G1438 G3004 G3383 G5315

μήτε πίειν ἕως οὖ ἀποκτείνωσιν τὸν Παῦλον
neither drink till they had killed G3588 Paul
G3383 G4095 G2193 G615 G3972

Additional Cross-References

Acts 23:30 (Parallel theme): And when it was told me how that the Jews laid wait for the man, I sent straightway to thee, and gave commandment to his accusers also to say before thee what they had against him. Farewell.

Acts 23:21 (Parallel theme): But do not thou yield unto them: for there lie in wait for him of them more than forty men, which have bound themselves with an oath, that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him: and now are they ready, looking for a promise from thee.

Acts 23:14 (Curse): And they came to the chief priests and elders, and said, We have bound ourselves under a great curse, that we will eat nothing until we have slain Paul.

Psalms 31:13 (Parallel theme): For I have heard the slander of many: fear was on every side: while they took counsel together against me, they devised to take away my life.

Acts 25:3 (Parallel theme): And desired favour against him, that he would send for him to Jerusalem, laying wait in the way to kill him.

Jeremiah 11:19 (Parallel theme): But I was like a lamb or an ox that is brought to the slaughter; and I knew not that they had devised devices against me, saying, Let us destroy the tree with the fruit thereof, and let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name may be no more remembered.

2 Kings 6:31 (Parallel theme): Then he said, God do so and more also to me, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat shall stand on him this day.

1 Corinthians 16:22 (Parallel theme): If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

Matthew 26:4 (Parallel theme): And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill him.

1 Kings 19:2 (Parallel theme): Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time.