

Acts 23:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they were more than forty which had made this conspiracy.

Analysis

The conspiracy involved 'more than forty men,' showing organized opposition to Paul and the gospel. This wasn't spontaneous anger but coordinated plotting by a significant group willing to murder and break civil law. The specific number suggests Luke's access to detailed information, perhaps through Paul's nephew (verse 16) or other sources within the Jewish community.

Historical Context

These men likely belonged to the Zealot movement or similar groups committed to violently opposing anything they viewed as threatening Jewish tradition. Such conspiracies weren't uncommon in first-century Judea's volatile religious climate.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when opposition becomes organized and threatening rather than merely individual?

2. What does this teach about the spiritual battle that rages against faithful gospel witness?

Interlinear Text

ἦσαν	δὲ	πλείους	τεσσαράκοντα	τὴν	ταύτην	τὴν
they were	And	more than	forty	which	^{G3778}	which
^{G2258}	^{G1161}	^{G4119}	^{G5062}	^{G3588}		^{G3588}

συνωμοσίαν	πεποιηκότες,
conspiracy	had made
^{G4945}	^{G4160}

Additional Cross-References

John 16:2 (Parallel theme): They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

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