

Acts 23:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Paul unto him, God shall smite thee, thou whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law?

Analysis

Paul's rebuke - 'God shall smite thee, thou whited wall' - echoed Jesus's condemnation of hypocritical leaders (Matthew 23:27). The charge of sitting to judge 'after the law' while commanding to strike Paul 'contrary to the law' exposed stunning hypocrisy. Paul's righteous anger at injustice, especially when cloaked in religious authority, reflected Jesus's own confrontations with corrupt leaders.

Historical Context

A 'whited wall' referred to a wall whitewashed to hide structural defects, symbolizing outward religious appearance covering inner corruption. Paul's prophecy of divine judgment on Ananias proved accurate - he died violently in AD 66.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. When is righteous anger at injustice appropriate, and how do you express it without sin?
2. How do you discern between respecting authority and confronting corruption, especially in religious contexts?

Interlinear Text

τότε	ὁ	Παῦλος	πρὸς	αὐτὸν	εἶπεν	τύπτεσθαι	σε
Then G5119	G3588	Paul G3972	unto G4314	him G846	said G2036	smite G5180	thee G4571
μέλλει	ὁ	θεός	τοιῆχε	κεκονιαμένε·	καὶ	σὺ	κάθη
shall G3195	G3588	God G2316	wall G5109	thou whited G2867	and G2532	thou G4771	sittest G2521
κρίνων	με	κατὰ	τὸν	νόμον	καὶ	παρανομῶν	κελεύεις
to judge G2919	me G3165	after G2596	G3588	the law G3551	and G2532	contrary to the law G3891	commandest G2753
με	τύπτεσθαι						
me G3165	smite G5180						

Additional Cross-References

John 7:51 (Judgment): Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?