

Acts 24:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Notwithstanding, that I be not further tedious unto thee, I pray thee that thou wouldest hear us of thy clemency a few words.

Analysis

'That I be not further tedious unto thee, I pray thee that thou wouldest hear us of thy clemency a few words.' Tertullus's feigned brevity was a rhetorical technique. The appeal to 'clemency' sought favorable disposition before presenting charges.

Historical Context

Roman legal rhetoric valued brevity as a virtue. Tertullus's promise of few words prepared for concentrated accusation.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do promises of brevity sometimes introduce extended attacks?

2. What does this teach about discerning rhetorical techniques?

Interlinear Text

ἵνα	δὲ	μὴ	ἐπὶ	πλεῖόν	σε	ἐγκόπτω	παρακαλῶ
G2443	Notwithstanding	G3361	G1909	I be	thee	tedious	I pray
		G1161		G4119	G4571	G1465	G3870
ἀκοῦσαί	σε	ἡμῶν	συντόμως	τῇ	σῇ	ἐπιεικείᾳ	
that thou wouldest hear	thee	us	a few words	G3588	of thy	clemency	
G191	G4571	G2257	G4935		G4674	G1932	

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