

Acts 25:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

About whom, when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed me, desiring to have judgment against him.

Analysis

The chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed me, desiring to have judgment against him (κατηγόρησαν αἰτούμενοι κατ' αὐτοῦ καταδίκην)—Festus recounts the Jewish leaders' accusation against Paul. The Greek *katēgorēsan* (informed/accused) is the root of our word 'category'—they catalogued charges. *Katadikēn* (judgment/condemnation) reveals their goal: not investigation but execution.

This verse captures the irony of Paul's trial narrative: Rome, the pagan empire, sought legal process while Jerusalem's religious establishment demanded summary execution. The 'chief priests and elders' represent Israel's official leadership—the very guardians of God's law now manipulating legal systems to destroy an innocent man. Luke repeatedly shows Rome protecting Paul from Jewish mob violence (Acts 21:31-36, 23:10, 23:23-24), culminating in Paul's appeal to Caesar that secured his Roman imprisonment and opportunity to testify before rulers (Acts 9:15).

Historical Context

Festus succeeded Felix as procurator of Judea (c. AD 59-62). This conversation occurs as Festus explains Paul's case to King Agrippa II. The Jewish leaders had ambushed Festus during his first visit to Jerusalem (Acts 25:2-3), attempting to manipulate the new governor before he understood Palestinian politics.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does religious authority become corrupted when leaders prioritize institutional preservation over truth and justice?
2. When have you seen God's providence using opposition to advance the gospel, as He used these false accusations to bring Paul before Caesar?

Interlinear Text

περὶ	οὗ	γενομένου	μου	εἰς	Ἱεροσόλυμα	ἐνεφάνισαν
About	whom	was	I	at	Jerusalem	informed
G4012	G3739	G1096	G3450	G1519	G2414	G1718
οἱ	ἀρχιερεῖς	καὶ	οἱ	πρεσβύτεροι	τῶν	Ἰουδαίων
G3588	the chief priests	and	G3588	the elders	G3588	of the Jews
	G749	G2532		G4245		G2453
αἰτούμενοι	κατ'	αὐτοῦ	δίκην			
me desiring	against	him	to have judgment			
G154	G2596	G846	G1349			

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