

Acts 27:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.

Analysis

Paul's address **after long abstinence** (πολλῆς ἀσιτίας, extended fasting) shows the physical toll of prolonged crisis—seasickness, fear, and despair killed appetites. His reminder **ye should have hearkened unto me** recalls his earlier warning at Fair Havens (v. 10), establishing prophetic credibility before making new promises. The phrase **gained this harm and loss** (κερδῆσαι τὴν ὕβριν, literally 'gained the injury') uses commercial language ironically—they 'profited' disaster by ignoring wisdom. Paul doesn't gloat but establishes authority for his coming encouragement.

Historical Context

The 'long abstinence' occurred during the fourteen-day storm (v. 27). Ancient sailing provided no shelter from elements; passengers and crew huddled on open decks, unable to prepare food. Paul's earlier counsel at Fair Havens (Crete) was overruled by the ship's master and centurion who risked sailing toward Phoenix.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when your earlier godly counsel is vindicated by events —with humility or superiority?
2. What 'harm and loss' have you 'gained' by ignoring wisdom or rushing ahead of God's timing?

Interlinear Text

Πολλῆς	δέ	ἀσιτίας	ὑπαρχούσης	τότε	σταθεῖς	ὁ	
long	But	abstinence	after	G5119	stood forth	G3588	
G4183	G1161	G776	G5225		G2476		
Παῦλος	ἐν	μέσῳ	αὐτῶν	εἶπεν	Ἔδει	μέν	ὦ
Paul	in	the midst	of them	and said	ye should	G3303	Sirs
G3972	G1722	G3319	G846	G2036	G1163		G5599
ἄνδρες	πειθαρχήσαντάς	μοι	μὴ	ἀνάγεσθαι	ἀπὸ	τῆς	
G435	have hearkened	unto me	and not	have loosed	from	G3588	
	G3980	G3427	G3361	G321	G575		
Κρήτης	κερδῆσαί	τε	τὴν	ὑβριν	ταύτην	καὶ	τὴν
Crete	to have gained	and	G3588	harm	G3778	and	G3588
G2914	G2770	G5037		G5196		G2532	
ζημίαν							
loss							
G2209							

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 42:22 (Parallel theme): And Reuben answered them, saying, Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear? therefore, behold, also his blood is required.

