

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

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 σταθεὶς ὁ
long But abstinence after G5119 stood forth G3588
G4183 G1161 G776 G5225 G2476

Παῦλος ἐν μέσῳ αὐτῶν εἶπεν Ἐδει μέν ὥ
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 κερδῆσαι τε τὴν ὕβριν 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.

