

Acts 27:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the next day we touched at Sidon. And Julius courteously entreated Paul, and gave him liberty to go unto his friends to refresh himself.

Analysis

The next day we touched at Sidon. And Julius courteously entreated Paul, and gave him liberty to go unto his friends to refresh himself. The centurion's kindness (philanthrōpōs, φιλανθρώπως, "humanely, courteously") shows Paul's earned respect despite prisoner status. Epetrepsen (ἐπέτρεπεν, "gave liberty") means officially permitted—risky generosity trusting Paul's honor. **To go unto his friends** (τοὺς φίλους) indicates established Christian community in Sidon, 70 miles north of Caesarea. **To refresh himself** (epimeleias tychein, ἐπιμελείας τυχεῖν, "to receive care") suggests practical provisions—food, clothing, encouragement—for the arduous journey ahead.

This scene illustrates gospel's social impact: Paul, though prisoner, commanded such dignity that a Roman officer trusted him unsupervised. Christian hospitality networks spanned the empire, providing mutual aid. The brief Sidon stopover prefigures Romans 15:24's vision of church-supported mission. Paul's freedom to fellowship demonstrates that even in chains, believers maintain spiritual liberty (Philippians 1:12-14).

Historical Context

Sidon (modern Saida, Lebanon) was an ancient Phoenician city, 25 miles north of Tyre. A Christian community existed there from early post-Pentecost expansion (Acts 11:19). Jesus had ministered in Tyre and Sidon's region (Mark 7:24-31). The

city's harbor made it a natural first stop on northbound coastal routes. Roman centurions had considerable discretion over prisoners, especially those not yet convicted.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How did Paul's character and testimony earn a pagan centurion's extraordinary trust?
2. What does the Sidon church's readiness to receive and refresh Paul teach about practical Christian hospitality?

Interlinear Text

τῇ	τε	ἐτέρα	κατήχθημεν	εἰς	Σιδῶνα	φιλανθρώπως	τε
G3588	And	the next	day we touched	at	Sidon	courteously	And
	G5037	G2087	G2609	G1519	G4605	G5364	G5037
ὁ	Ἰούλιος	τῷ	Παύλῳ	χρησάμενος	ἐπέτρεψεν	πρὸς	
G3588	And Julius	G3588	Paul	entreated	and gave him liberty	unto	
	G2457		G3972	G5530	G2010	G4314	
φίλους	πορευθέντα	ἐπιμελείας	τυχεῖν				
friends	to go			to refresh himself			
G5384	G4198		G1958	G5177			

Additional Cross-References

Acts 24:23 (References Paul): And he commanded a centurion to keep Paul, and to let him have liberty, and that he should forbid none of his acquaintance to minister or come unto him.

Acts 28:16 (References Paul): And when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard: but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him.

Acts 27:43 (References Paul): But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land:

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