

Acts 27:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And while the day was coming on, Paul besought them all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing.

Analysis

While the day was coming on—Paul seized the psychological moment between darkness and dawn to address the ship's crisis. **This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting** emphasizes sustained distress; the Greek *asitōi* (without food) suggests anxiety-induced inability to eat, not religious fasting. Two weeks of terror had depleted them physically and spiritually.

Paul's exhortation (*parekalei*, 'besought') shows pastoral concern for practical needs. The apostle modeled spiritual leadership addressing whole-person welfare—not just souls but bodies, not merely eternal destiny but present survival. His **having taken nothing** indicates they'd subsisted on minimal food, weakening them for the coming ordeal of swimming ashore.

Historical Context

Ancient sailors feared shipwreck intensely; most couldn't swim. Fourteen days adrift in storm-tossed seas would have caused severe dehydration, exhaustion, and fear-induced appetite loss. The Adriatic Sea (Acts 27:27) was notorious for sudden violent storms. Dawn brought first opportunity to assess their location and plan landing strategy.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does crisis-induced anxiety prevent you from accepting God's provision for basic needs?
2. What does Paul's concern for physical welfare teach about holistic spiritual leadership?

Interlinear Text

Ἀχρι δὲ οὗ ἔμελλεν ἡμέραν γίνεσθαι παρεκάλει ὁ
while **And** G3739 **on** **day** **was coming** **besought** G3588
G891 G1161 G3195 G2250 G1096 G3870

Παῦλος ἅπαντας μεταλαβεῖν τροφῆς λέγων,
Paul **them all** **to take** **meat** **saying**
G3972 G537 G3335 G5160 G3004

Τεσσαρεσκαιδεκάτην σήμερον ἡμέραν προσδοκῶντες ἄσιτοι
is the fourteenth **This day** **day** **that ye have tarried** **fasting**
G5065 G4594 G2250 G4328 G777

διατελεῖτε μηδὲν προσλαβόμενοι
and continued **nothing** **having taken**
G1300 G3367 G4355