

Acts 27:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat.

Analysis

He took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all—Paul's public thanksgiving transformed a meal into witness. The Greek eucharistēsas (gave thanks) recalls Jesus' Last Supper actions and feeding miracles. Though not a communion service, Paul's blessing demonstrated that **in presence of them all**—pagans included—God deserved gratitude.

When he had broken it, he began to eat—Simple actions spoke volumes. The prisoner's calm confidence and public prayer to the true God shamed the sailors' panic and the soldiers' uncertainty. His eating first modeled the faith he preached. This scene previews Paul's later Roman imprisonment ministry where his chains advanced the gospel (Philippians 1:12-14).

Historical Context

Public prayer to foreign gods was common in polytheistic Rome, but exclusive devotion to Israel's God was distinctive. Paul's thanksgiving publicly identified the source of promised deliverance. The breaking of bread (artos, ordinary bread, not sacramental) was standard Jewish practice before meals, acknowledging God as provider. For 276 terrified people, Paul's composed blessing was powerful testimony.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does public thanksgiving for God's provision witness to His reality and care?
2. What does Paul's example teach about practicing faith visibly during corporate crisis?

Interlinear Text

εἴπων	δὲ	ταῦτα	καὶ	λαβὼν	ἄρτον	εὐχαρίστησεν
spoken	And	when he had thus	and	he took	bread	and gave thanks
G2036	G1161	G5023	G2532	G2983	G740	G2168
τῷ	θεῷ	ἐνώπιον	πάντων	καὶ	κλάσας	ἥρξατο
G3588	to God	in presence	of them all	and	when he had broken	it he began
G2316	G1799	G3956	G2532	G2806	G756	

ἐσθίειν

to eat

G2068

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 15:36 (Parallel theme): And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

1 Peter 4:16 (References God): Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

2 Timothy 1:8 (References God): Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

2 Timothy 1:12 (Parallel theme): For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

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