

Acts 27:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat.

Analysis

Then were they all of good cheer—Paul's example was contagious. The Greek euthumoi genomoi (became cheerful) indicates emotional transformation from despair to hope. One man's faith shifted an entire ship's atmosphere. **They also took some meat** shows practical result—courage enabled appetite. Fear had prevented eating (v. 33); now confidence restored normal function.

This verse demonstrates leadership's ripple effect. Paul, lowest in social status (prisoner), exercised highest spiritual influence. His calm trust, public thanksgiving, and confident eating gave 275 others courage to eat and hope to survive. True spiritual authority derives from God's presence, not human position. The scene anticipates Paul's later testimony before Caesar—a prisoner whose chains liberate.

Historical Context

Ancient Mediterranean culture was highly observant of social cues and hierarchies. That a Jewish prisoner could influence Roman soldiers, Greek sailors, and a centurion shows extraordinary moral authority. The corporate shift from despair to cheerfulness validated Paul's prophetic word and demonstrated the gospel's power to transform even pagan hearts through observable faithfulness.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does one person's visible faith in crisis encourage others toward hope and action?
2. In what situations has God called you to lead spiritually despite lacking formal authority?

Interlinear Text

εὖθυμοι	δὲ	γενόμενοι	πάντες	καὶ	αὐτοὶ	προσελάβοντο
of good cheer	Then	were they	all	also	G846	and they
G2115	G1161	G1096	G3956	G2532		G4355

τροφῆς

some meat

G5160

Additional Cross-References

Acts 27:22 (Good): And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship.

Psalms 27:14 (Good): Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.