

Acts 4:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

Analysis

The arrest - 'laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day' - demonstrates that gospel proclamation produces opposition from worldly powers. The phrase 'it was now eventide' explains the delay in trial due to Jewish legal procedure prohibiting night trials. This imprisonment parallels Christ's arrest, beginning the pattern of apostolic suffering 'for his name's sake' (v. 17). Peter and John's courage, recently fearful at Christ's trial, shows Spirit-transformation.

Historical Context

Jewish law required trials begin and conclude during daylight to ensure fairness and proper witness examination. The Sanhedrin couldn't convene at night, forcing overnight detention. This same council had illegally tried Jesus at night (Mark 14:53-65), revealing their hypocrisy in now following legal procedure.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does overnight imprisonment test faith's reality - does your confession survive darkness and delay?
2. What transformation occurred in Peter between denying Christ in the courtyard and boldly proclaiming Him before the same council?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐπέβαλον	αὐτοῖς	τὰς	χεῖρας	καὶ	ἔθεντο	εἰς
And	they laid	on them	G3588	hands	And	put	them in
G2532	G1911	G846		G5495	G2532	G5087	G1519
τήρησιν	εἰς	τὴν	αὔριον·	ἦν	γὰρ	ἐσπέρα	ἤδη
hold	them in	G3588	the next day	it was	for	eventide	now
G5084	G1519		G839	G2258	G1063	G2073	G2235

Additional Cross-References

Acts 5:18 (Parallel theme): And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison.