

Acts 5:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned.

Analysis

The careful rearrest - 'Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned' - shows forced restraint. The Greek 'ou meta bias' (without violence) indicates gentle approach contrary to their authority and anger. Fear of popular stoning reversed normal power dynamics - religious leaders fearing crowd, not apostles. This demonstrates gospel's power to transform social structures, with common people defending God's messengers against corrupt authorities.

Historical Context

Stoning was Jewish execution method for blasphemy (Leviticus 24:16), but here common people would stone authorities for touching apostles. This popularity inversion parallels Jesus' ministry when leaders 'feared the people' (Matthew 21:46). The gospel's traction among masses threatened elite control.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does popular support for gospel truth restrain hostile authorities?
2. What does fear of stoning by the people teach about social revolution gospel produces?

Interlinear Text

τότε ἀπελθὼν ὁ στρατηγὸς σὺν τοῖς ὑπηρέταις
Then **went** G3588 **the captain** G4755 **with** G3588 **the officers** G5257
G5119 G565 G4862 G5257

ἥγαγεν αὐτούς οὐ μετὰ βίας ἐφοβοῦντο γὰρ τὸν
and brought **them** **without** G3326 **violence** G970 **they feared** G5399 **for** G3588
G71 G846 G3756 G970 G5399 G1063 G3588

λαόν ἵνα μὴ λιθασθῶσιν
the people G2443 G3361 **they should have been stoned** G3034
G2992 G3034

Additional Cross-References

Acts 5:13 (Parallel theme): And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.

Acts 4:21 (Parallel theme): So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.