

Acts 5:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

Analysis

The high priest's question reveals the religious establishment's fear of losing authority ('Did not we straitly command you'). Their concern about 'this man's blood' being upon them ironically recalls their own acceptance of responsibility (Matt. 27:25). The apostles' disobedience to human authority in order to obey God demonstrates the hierarchy of authority: God's commands supersede human commands when they conflict. The growth of Christianity despite official prohibition testifies to divine sovereignty.

Historical Context

The Sanhedrin, Judaism's supreme religious council of 71 members, held significant authority under Roman occupation. Their 'strict command' referred to the earlier prohibition in Acts 4:18. The phrase 'bring this man's blood upon us' reflects Jewish legal concern about bloodguilt for executing an innocent person.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. When human authorities command us to disobey God, how should we respond, and what consequences should we expect?
2. How does the leaders' fear of bloodguilt reveal an unacknowledged awareness of wrongdoing in crucifying Christ?

Interlinear Text

λέγων, Οὐ παραγγελία παρηγγείλαμεν ὑμῖν μὴ
Saying **not** **we straitly** **Did** **you** **not**
G3004 G3756 G3852 G3853 G5213 G3361

διδάσκειν ἐφ' τῷ ὀνόματι τούτῳ καὶ ἰδοὺ, πεπληρώκατε
teach **in** ^{G3588} **name** **this** **and** **behold** **ye have filled**
G1321 G1909 G3686 G5129 G2532 G2400 G4137

τὴν Ἱερουσαλὴμ τῆς διδαχῆς ὑμῶν καὶ βούλεσθε
^{G3588} **Jerusalem** ^{G3588} **doctrine** **with your** **and** **intend**
G2419 G1322 G5216 G2532 G1014

ἐπαγαγεῖν ἐφ' ἡμᾶς τὸ αἷμα τοῦ ἀνθρώπου τούτου
to bring **in** **us** ^{G3588} **blood** ^{G3588} **man's** **this**
G1863 G1909 G2248 G129 G444 G5127

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 27:25 (Blood): Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.

Acts 7:52 (Parallel theme): Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: