

Acts 5:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.

Analysis

The hostile reaction - 'When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them' - shows truth's polarizing effect. The Greek 'dieprioronto' (cut to the heart) describes sawing-through, violent internal reaction. Unlike Pentecost's crowd whose heart-piercing led to conversion (Acts 2:37, same Greek root), this produces murderous rage. The phrase 'took counsel' (Greek 'ebouleuonto') indicates deliberate planning, not impulsive reaction. The same truth produces repentance in elect, hardening in reprobate - demonstrating double predestination.

Historical Context

The council's murderous intent fulfilled Jesus' persecution predictions (John 15:20). Roman occupation prevented immediate execution without trial and approval. This restraint allowed Gamaliel's intervention (v. 34-39), providentially preserving apostles. Their rage echoed Stephen's later stoning (Acts 7:54-60).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the same gospel message produce opposite reactions - salvation or hardening?
2. What does the council's murderous rage teach about human nature's hostility to God?

Interlinear Text

Oἱ δὲ ἀκούσαντες διεπρίοντο καὶ
G3588 When they heard that they were cut to the heart and
G1161 G191 G1282 G2532

ἐβουλεύοντο ἀνελεῖν αὐτούς
took counsel to slay them
G1011 G337 G846

Additional Cross-References

Acts 7:54 (Parallel theme): When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

Acts 2:37 (Parallel theme): Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Matthew 24:9 (Parallel theme): Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

John 16:2 (Parallel theme): They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

Matthew 10:25 (Parallel theme): It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

Matthew 10:21 (Parallel theme): And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.

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