

James 5:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.

Analysis

Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you. You condemned (katedikasate, κατεδικάσατε) and killed (ephoneusate, ἐφονεύσατε) the righteous person; he does not resist. Oppression escalated to judicial murder of innocent believers, echoing Christ's own suffering.

Reformed believers recognize solidarity with persecuted righteous. James assures victims that God sees and will judge oppressors.

Historical Context

Wealthy Sadducees and landowners sometimes manipulated courts to eliminate opponents. James may reference martyrdom of righteous believers, possibly even Jesus or His followers. The powerless often lacked legal recourse.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How can you support believers facing injustice today?

2. Are you complicit in systems that harm the righteous?
3. What does it look like to endure injustice without retaliation?

Interlinear Text

κατεδικάσατε ἐφονεύσατε τὸν δίκαιον οὐκ ἀντιτάσσεται
Ye have condemned and killed the just not and he doth
G2613 G5407 G3588 G1342 G3756 G498

ὑμῖν

you
G5213

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 53:7 (Parallel theme): He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

Acts 8:32 (Parallel theme): The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

Matthew 5:39 (Parallel theme): But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

James 4:2 (Parallel theme): Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

Hebrews 10:38 (Righteousness): Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Acts 22:14 (Righteousness): And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.