

John 11:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?

Analysis

The disciples' response shows human wisdom opposing divine purpose, reminiscent of Peter's rebuke (Matt 16:22). They correctly recall the recent stoning attempt but incorrectly prioritize safety over mission. The Greek construction emphasizes their incredulity: 'Are you going back there now?' This reveals how fear can masquerade as prudence. Their concern, though natural, fails to account for Christ's sovereignty and timing.

Historical Context

The recent stoning attempt occurred during the Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah) in Jerusalem, recorded in John 10:22-39. Jesus escaped across the Jordan to Perea, making this return only weeks later.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. When does prudent caution become faithless fear in Christian decision-making?

2. How do we discern between human wisdom and divine leading?
3. What recent 'stones' tempt you to avoid God's clear calling?

Interlinear Text

λέγουσιν	αὐτῷ	οἱ	μαθηταί	Ῥαββί	νῦν	ἐζήτουν	σε
say	unto him	G3588	His disciples	Master	of late	sought	thee
G3004	G846		G3101	G4461	G3568	G2212	G4571
λιθάσαι	οἱ	Ἰουδαῖοι	καὶ	πάλιν	ὑπάγεις	ἐκεῖ	
to stone	G3588	the Jews	and	again	goest thou	thither	
G3034		G2453	G2532	G3825	G5217	G1563	

Additional Cross-References

John 8:59 (Parallel theme): Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

John 10:31 (Parallel theme): Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

John 10:39 (Parallel theme): Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand,