

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 ὢραβί νῦν ἐζήτουν σε
 say unto him His disciples Master of late sought thee
 G3004 G846 G3588 G3101 G4461 G3568 G2212 G4571

λιθάσαι οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι καὶ πάλιν ὑπάγεις ἐκεῖ
 to stone the Jews and again goest thou thither
 G3034 G3588 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,

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