

John 16:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.

Analysis

That ye should not be offended (ἵνα μὴ σκανδαλισθῆτε, hina mē skandalisthēte) —Jesus warns disciples to prevent them from stumbling or falling away. The verb skandalizō means to cause to sin or apostatize, derived from skandalon (a trap-stick, snare). Christ's forewarning serves as spiritual inoculation against persecution.

The phrase **these things have I spoken** (ταῦτα λελάληκα, tauta lelalēka) uses the perfect tense, emphasizing the lasting significance of His teaching. Jesus knew that unprepared disciples facing violent persecution would be vulnerable to apostasy. By revealing future trials beforehand, He transforms potential stumbling blocks into testimonies of His prophetic foreknowledge and loving pastoral care.

Historical Context

Jesus spoke these words in the Upper Room on the night before His crucifixion (c. AD 30), during the farewell discourse. Within decades, Jewish Christians would face synagogue excommunication (John 9:22, 12:42), and within a generation, persecution from both Jewish authorities and Roman officials would intensify, culminating in Nero's persecution (AD 64) and beyond.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What potential 'offenses' or stumbling blocks in your spiritual life might Jesus be warning you about through His Word?
2. How does Jesus's prophetic forewarning of trials demonstrate His love and strengthen your faith during difficult seasons?
3. In what ways can you prepare yourself spiritually to remain faithful when facing opposition for Christ's sake?

Interlinear Text

Ταῦτα	λελάληκα	ὑμῖν	ἵνα	μὴ	σκανδαλισθῆτε
These things	have I spoken	unto you	G2443	G3361	be offended
G5023	G2980	G5213			G4624

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 2:8 (Parallel theme): And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

Matthew 13:21 (Parallel theme): Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

John 16:4 (Parallel theme): But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.

Matthew 24:10 (Parallel theme): And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

