

John 4:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee.

Analysis

Jesus' departure from Judea represents strategic wisdom, not fearful retreat. He sovereignly controls the timing of confrontation with authorities. This illustrates that while Christ was completely faithful to His mission, He also exercised prudence in avoiding premature conflict. The Reformed ethic affirms both courage and wisdom in spiritual warfare.

Historical Context

Jesus left Judea around late 27 or early 28 AD, returning to Galilee where Herod Antipas ruled rather than the Pharisee-influenced religious establishment in Judea. This geographical shift affected His ministry's character and audience.

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. How do we balance faithfulness to our calling with wisdom about timing and strategy?
2. When is withdrawal from conflict prudent versus when is it compromise?

Interlinear Text

ἀφῆκεν τὴν Ἰουδαίαν καὶ ἀπῆλθεν πάλιν εἰς τὴν
He left G3588 Judaea G2449 and G2532 departed G565 again G3825 into G1519 G3588

Γαλιλαίαν

Galilee
G1056

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 10:23 (Parallel theme): But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.

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