

Luke 23:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they were the more fierce, saying, He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place.

Analysis

They were the more fierce (ἐπίσχυον, epischyon)—literally 'they kept insisting more urgently' or 'grew more vehement.' When Pilate's verdict contradicted their agenda, the chief priests intensified their accusations rather than accepting the judgment. Their claim that Jesus **stirreth up the people** (ἀνασείει τὸν λαόν, anaseisei ton laon) ironically uses revolutionary language—anaseisei means 'incites to revolt,' precisely what they themselves were doing by manipulating the crowd.

Their geographical reference—**from Galilee to this place**—attempts to portray Jesus's ministry as a subversive movement spanning all Jewish territories. Yet this unwitting testimony actually confirms the breadth of Christ's teaching ministry (Luke 4:14-15, 8:1). The accusers' desperation to secure execution despite legal acquittal reveals the spiritual blindness Isaiah prophesied: 'He is despised and rejected of men' (Isaiah 53:3).

Historical Context

The mention of Galilee and Judea reflects the political geography under Roman rule. Galilee was ruled by Herod Antipas (tetrarch), while Judea was under direct Roman administration through Pilate. Teaching 'throughout all Jewry' would indeed raise Roman suspicions of sedition during the volatile Passover season when nationalist fervor ran high and Jerusalem's population swelled with pilgrims.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Why do religious leaders often become 'more fierce' when their unjust agenda is challenged by truth?
2. How can we guard against the same vehement insistence when our accusations or judgments are proven false?

Interlinear Text

οἱ	δὲ	ἐπίσχυον	λέγοντες	ὅτι	Ἀνασεΐει	τὸν
G3588	And	they were the more fierce	saying	G3754	He stirreth up	G3588
G1161		G2001	G3004		G383	
λαὸν	διδάσκων	καθ'	ὅλης	τῆς	Ἰουδαίας	ἀρξάμενος
the people	teaching	throughout	all	G3588	Jewry	beginning
G2992	G1321	G2596	G3650		G2449	G756
ἀπὸ	τῆς	Γαλιλαίας	ἕως	ᾧδε		
from	G3588	Galilee	to	this place		
G575		G1056	G2193	G5602		

Additional Cross-References

Mark 1:14 (Parallel theme): Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

John 2:11 (Parallel theme): This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

John 1:43 (Parallel theme): The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

Matthew 4:23 (Parallel theme): And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

Acts 10:37 (Parallel theme): That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;

Acts 7:57 (Parallel theme): Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

Acts 5:33 (Parallel theme): When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.

Acts 23:10 (Parallel theme): And when there arose a great dissension, the chief captain, fearing lest Paul should have been pulled in pieces of them, commanded the soldiers to go down, and to take him by force from among them, and to bring him into the castle.

Acts 7:54 (Parallel theme): When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

Psalms 57:4 (Parallel theme): My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.