

Luke 24:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

Analysis

They constrained him, saying, Abide with us (παρεβιάσαντο αὐτὸν λέγοντες· Μεῖνον μεθ' ἡμῶν, parebiasanto auton legontes· Meinon meth' hēmōn)—The verb parabiazomai (constrained/urged strongly) suggests earnest insistence, not physical force. Their invitation **Abide with us** uses menō (abide/remain), the same word Jesus used for abiding in Him (John 15:4). This becomes an unintentional prayer—they asked Christ to stay without recognizing Him.

Their reason—**for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent** (ὅτι πρὸς ἑσπέραν ἐστὶν καὶ κέκλικεν ἡδὴ ἡ ἡμέρα, hoti pros hesperan estin kai keklikēn ēdē hē hēmera)—carries symbolic weight. The day 'declining' (κέκλικεν, keklikēn, perfect tense: 'has declined') mirrors their spiritual darkness post-crucifixion. Yet Christ's presence transforms evening into revelation. Their hospitality to a stranger became the context for recognizing the Lord.

Historical Context

Traveling after dark in first-century Palestine posed dangers from robbers, wild animals, and difficult terrain. The disciples' insistence reflects genuine concern and cultural hospitality expectations. The timing—late afternoon moving toward evening—meant Jesus would have walked in darkness if He continued. Their invitation fulfilled Hebrews 13:2: 'Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.'

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the prayer 'Abide with us' at evening mirror our need for Christ's presence in dark times?
2. What does Jesus' acceptance of their invitation teach about the blessings of hospitality?
3. How might your life be different if you prayed 'Abide with me' daily with the same urgency?

Interlinear Text

καὶ παρεβιάσαντο αὐτοῖς λέγοντες μεῖναι μεθ' ἡμῶν ὅτι
And **they constrained** **him** **saying** **Abide** **with** **us** **for**
G2532 G3849 G846 G3004 G3306 G3326 G2257 G3754

πρὸς ἑσπέραν ἐστὶν καὶ κέκλικεν ἡ ἡμέρα καὶ
toward **evening** **it is** **And** **is far spent** ^{G3588} **the day** **And**
G4314 G2073 G2076 G2532 G2827 G2250 G2532

εἰσῆλθεν τοῦ μεῖναι σὺν αὐτοῖς
he went in ^{G3588} **Abide** **with** **him**
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Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 4:8 (Parallel theme): And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread.

Genesis 19:3 (Parallel theme): And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.

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