

Mark 14:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But he spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise also said they all.

Analysis

But he spake the more vehemently (ὁ δὲ ἐκπερισσῶς ἐλάλει, ho de ekperissōs elalei)—the adverb indicates exceeding intensity, escalating contradiction. Peter's vehemence reveals the depth of his self-deception. **If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise** ironically predicts exactly what he will fail to do hours later. The absolute negation οὐ μή (ou mē, "not...in any wise") represents Greek's strongest negative, making Peter's coming failure even more striking.

Likewise also said they all—the disciples collectively share Peter's self-confidence and coming failure. This corporate delusion demonstrates that spiritual self-assessment requires more than sincere intention; it requires humble recognition of human weakness. Their unanimous confidence makes their unanimous desertion (v. 50) even more sobering. Yet Jesus chose these men knowing their weaknesses, and empowered them after resurrection despite their failures.

Historical Context

First-century honor-shame culture made Peter's declaration especially significant—one's word constituted one's honor. His vehement oath before witnesses would make his denial even more shameful. Yet this very shame, when met with Jesus' restorative grace (John 21), transformed Peter into the bold confessor of Acts who truly would die for Christ (John 21:18-19; tradition holds Peter was crucified upside-down under Nero).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does the disciples' unanimous self-confidence followed by unanimous failure teach about group dynamics in spiritual self-assessment?
2. How can you distinguish between Spirit-empowered boldness and self-confident presumption in your own commitments to Christ?
3. What does Jesus' choice to use these failure-prone men as apostles teach about grace and calling?

Interlinear Text

ὁ δὲ ἐκ περισσοῦ ἔλεγον μᾶλλον, Ἐὰν με
G3588 **But** G1161 **vehemently** G1537 G4053 **he spake** G3004 **the more** G3123 **If** G1437 **I** G3165

δέη συναποθανεῖν σοι οὐ μή σε ἀπαρνήσομαι
should G1163 **die with** G4880 **thee** G4671 G3756 G3361 **thee** G4571 **deny** G533

ὡσαύτως δὲ καὶ πάντες ἔλεγον
Likewise G5615 **But** G1161 G2532 **all** G3956 **he spake** G3004

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 19:8 (Parallel theme): And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

John 13:37 (Parallel theme): Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake.

Proverbs 16:18 (Parallel theme): Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 29:23 (Parallel theme): A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

Proverbs 18:24 (Parallel theme): A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Jeremiah 17:9 (Parallel theme): The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Jeremiah 10:23 (Parallel theme): O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

2 Kings 8:13 (Parallel theme): And Hazael said, But what, is thy servant a dog, that he should do this great thing? And Elisha answered, The LORD hath shewed me that thou shalt be king over Syria.