

Mark 14:59

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But neither so did their witness agree together.

Analysis

But neither so did their witness agree together (καὶ οὐδὲ οὕτως ἴση ἦν ἡ μαρτυρία αὐτῶν, kai oude houtōs isē ēn hē martyria autōn)—Even this more sophisticated false testimony failed the ἴση (isē, 'equal/consistent') standard. Matthew 26:60 specifies 'at the last came two,' suggesting these were the most promising witnesses, yet even they couldn't maintain consistent perjury. The emphatic οὐδὲ οὕτως (oude houtōs, 'not even thus') stresses that despite improvement, they still failed.

Mark's threefold emphasis on failed testimony (vv. 55, 56, 59) creates a dramatic crescendo of frustration for the Sanhedrin. God's Providence preserved His Son from illegal conviction even through the mouths of liars. Proverbs 19:5 promises 'a false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape'—divine justice operates even when human courts fail.

Historical Context

The Mishnah (Sanhedrin 5:2) prescribed meticulous cross-examination of witnesses, asking about details of time, place, and circumstances. Even minor contradictions invalidated testimony. The judges were to compare testimonies for consistency (Hebrew: *חזמה*, hazmah). Mark's repeated emphasis suggests eyewitness knowledge of the trial's proceedings, possibly from Nicodemus or Joseph of Arimathea, both Sanhedrin members and secret disciples.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Why does God allow false accusations to proceed yet prevent them from achieving their goal?
2. How does the repeated failure of false testimony demonstrate God's sovereignty over human plots?
3. What does this passage teach about God's preservation of the innocent even in corrupt judicial systems?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	οὐδὲ	οὕτως	ἴση	ἦν	ἡ	μαρτυρία	αὐτῶν
But	neither	so	did	agree together	G3588	their witness	G846
G2532	G3761	G3779	G2470	G2258		G3141	

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