

Matthew 23:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

Analysis

If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets—the Pharisees' self-assessment reveals dangerous delusion. They imagined themselves morally superior to their prophet-killing ancestors, incapable of such wickedness. Koinōnoi (partakers) means "partners, sharers, participants." They denied they would participate in prophetic bloodshed.

But within days they would crucify the Prophet of prophets, the Messiah Himself. Their imagined moral superiority became evidence of moral blindness. Those most confident they would never commit ancestor's sins are most vulnerable to repeating them—spiritual pride blinds us to our own capacity for evil. Every generation imagines itself more enlightened than previous ones while often committing analogous or worse sins.

Historical Context

Jewish tradition recorded numerous prophetic martyrdoms: Isaiah under Manasseh, Urijah under Jehoiakim (Jeremiah 26:20-23), Zechariah under Joash (2 Chronicles 24:20-22). Pharisaic theology emphasized their faithfulness to Torah over apostate ancestors. They saw themselves as Torah's guardians, protecting Israel from past errors. But Jesus exposes this as self-deception—they were about to commit the ultimate prophet-murder: killing God's Son (Matthew 21:33-39).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What past Christian failures do you condemn while remaining blind to analogous sins in your own life or generation?
2. How does confidence that "we would never do that" actually increase vulnerability to committing those very sins?
3. In what ways does judging past generations create self-righteous blindness to present compromises?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	λέγετε	Εἰ	ἤμεν	ἐν	ταῖς	ἡμέραις	τῶν	πατέρων
And	say	If	G1510	in	G3588	the days	G3588	fathers
G2532	G3004	G1487		G1722		G2250		G3962
ἡμῶν	οὐκ	ἂν	ἤμεν	κοινωνοὶ	αὐτῶν	ἐν	τῷ	αἵματι
of our	not	we would	G1510	partakers	with them	in	G3588	the blood
G2257	G3756	G302		G2844	G846	G1722		G129
τῶν	προφητῶν							
G3588	of the prophets							
	G4396							
