

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, Uriah 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 ἦμεν ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις τῶν πατέρων
And say If G1510 in G3588 the days G3588 fathers
G2532 G3004 G1487 G1722 G2250 G3962

ἡμῶν οὐκ ἀν ἦμεν κοινωνοὶ αὐτῶν ἐν τῷ αἷματι
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

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