

Matthew 24:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

Analysis

And then shall many be offended (καὶ τότε σκανδαλισθήσονται πολλοί)—The verb σκανδαλίζω (skandalizō) means to cause to stumble or fall away—the source of our word "scandal." In persecution's crucible, many (πολλοί) will apostatize, proving their faith was superficial (see the Parable of the Sower: seed among thorns, Matthew 13:20-21). This isn't backsliding but wholesale abandonment.

And shall betray one another, and shall hate one another (καὶ ἀλλήλους παραδώσουσιν καὶ μισήσουσιν ἀλλήλους)—The reciprocal pronoun allēlous ("one another") appears twice, intensifying the horror: not outsiders betraying believers, but believers betraying each other. Families will fracture (Matthew 10:21), communities implode. This describes not persecution from without but disintegration from within—the church cannibalizing itself under pressure.

Historical Context

During Roman persecutions, some Christians became traditores ("handers-over"), betraying fellow believers to save themselves—the origin of our word "traitor." The Donatist controversy arose over whether to readmit these apostates. In AD 70, historian Josephus records Jews betraying each other during Jerusalem's siege. Modern parallels include believers in China, North Korea, and Iran facing family betrayal when converting to Christ.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What pressures in contemporary culture tempt believers toward compromise or apostasy?
2. How can churches build resilience and authentic community that withstands persecution rather than fracturing?
3. What distinguishes temporary stumbling (which happens to genuine believers) from the permanent apostasy Jesus describes here?

Interlinear Text

καὶ τότε σκανδαλισθήσονται πολλοὶ καὶ ἀλλήλους·
And then be offended shall many And one another
G2532 G5119 G4624 G4183 G2532 G240

παραδώσουσιν καὶ μισήσουσιν ἀλλήλους·
shall betray And shall hate one another
G3860 G2532 G3404 G240

Additional Cross-References

Mark 13:12 (Parallel theme): Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death.

Luke 21:16 (Parallel theme): And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death.

Mark 4:17 (Parallel theme): And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

Matthew 11:6 (Parallel theme): And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

Matthew 13:21 (Parallel theme): Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

Matthew 10:21 (Parallel theme): And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.

2 Timothy 4:16 (Parallel theme): At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.

2 Timothy 4:10 (Parallel theme): For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

Matthew 13:57 (Parallel theme): And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

2 Timothy 1:15 (Parallel theme): This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.