

Matthew 26:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.

Analysis

Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee (λέγει αὐτῷ ὁ Πέτρος· κἂν δέη με σὺν σοὶ ἀποθανεῖν, οὐ μὴ σε ἀπαρνήσομαι, legei autō ho Petros· kan deē me syn soi apothanein, ou mē se aparnēsomai)—Peter's second protest intensifies his claim: he'd rather die than deny. The double negative οὐ μὴ (ou mē) is emphatic: 'absolutely not, by no means.' His sincerity is genuine, but self-knowledge is absent.

Likewise also said all the disciples—The entire group joins Peter's overconfident pledge, creating corporate self-deception. Within hours, **all the disciples forsook him, and fled** (v. 56). Their bold words crumble before a servant girl's question. The lesson: good intentions without Spirit-power produce spectacular failure.

Historical Context

Jewish martyrdom traditions (Maccabean period) celebrated those who chose death over apostasy. Peter and the disciples genuinely believed they possessed such courage. They didn't yet understand that loyalty to Christ required supernatural empowerment—which would come at Pentecost (Acts 2), transforming these same cowards into bold witnesses willing to actually die.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between Peter's self-generated courage and Spirit-empowered boldness after Pentecost?
2. How do you cultivate realistic self-assessment that acknowledges your dependence on Christ's strength?

Interlinear Text

λέγει	αὐτῷ	ὁ	Πέτρος	Κὰν	δέη	με	σὺν	σοὶ
said	unto him		Peter	Though	should	I	with	thee
G3004	G846	G3588	G4074	G2579	G1163	G3165	G4862	G4671
ἀποθανεῖν	οὐ	μή	σε	ἀπαρνήσομαι	ὁμοίως	καὶ	πάντες	
die			thee	not deny	Likewise	also	all	
G599	G3756	G3361	G4571	G533	G3668	G2532	G3956	
οἱ	μαθηταὶ	εἶπον						
	the disciples	said						
G3588	G3101	G2036						

Additional Cross-References

Romans 11:20 (Parallel theme): Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

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