

Matthew 27:62

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

Analysis

The next day, that followed the day of the preparation—this phrases the Sabbath respectfully without naming it, emphasizing the holy day. Yet the chief priests and Pharisees violated Sabbath by conducting business with Pilate. Their religious scruples (they wouldn't enter Pilate's hall during Passover, John 18:28) evaporated when protecting their position. **Came together unto Pilate** (συνήχθησαν πρὸς Πιλᾶτον)—conspired, gathered officially.

This verse reveals stunning hypocrisy: they remembered Jesus' resurrection prediction when his own disciples forgot (16:21-22). The enemies took Christ's words more seriously than his friends did. Their Sabbath-breaking for tomb security exposes what they truly worshiped—not God, but their own authority. They could kill the Son of God and still keep Sabbath externalism, yet felt compelled to break Sabbath to prevent resurrection.

Historical Context

The Sabbath began Friday sundown and ended Saturday sundown. For religious leaders to conduct governmental business violated their own strict interpretations. Their approach to Pilate on Sabbath demonstrated desperation—they feared the resurrection claim more than they feared breaking the fourth commandment. This occurred during Passover week, heightening the contradiction.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do we maintain religious appearances while violating God's heart, like the religious leaders?
2. What does it mean that Jesus' enemies remembered his resurrection prophecy when his disciples forgot?

Interlinear Text

Τῇ δὲ ἐπαύριον, ἡτις ἐστὶν μετὰ τὴν
G3588 Now the next day that followed G3326 G3588
G1161 G1887 G3748 G2076

παρασκευήν, συνήχθησαν οἱ ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ οἱ
the day of the preparation came together G3588 the chief priests and G3588
G3904 G4863 G749 G2532

Φαρισαῖοι πρὸς Πιλᾶτον

Pharisees unto Pilate
G5330 G4314 G4091

Additional Cross-References

Mark 15:42 (Parallel theme): And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath,

John 19:14 (Parallel theme): And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!

John 19:42 (Parallel theme): There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

