

Matthew 5:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.

Analysis

Quick reconciliation with adversaries prevents escalating consequences. This applies both to legal disputes and spiritual realities. Unresolved sin leads to judgment. The urgency reflects both practical wisdom (settle lawsuits early) and spiritual reality (be reconciled to God before death).

Historical Context

Roman legal system allowed creditors to imprison debtors until payment. The 'officer' (bailiff) would enforce the judge's sentence. Jesus uses this legal reality to illustrate spiritual truth: settle accounts before reaching the point of no return.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What relationships or spiritual matters are you putting off that need urgent attention?
2. How does this passage relate to being reconciled with God through Christ while there is still time?

Interlinear Text

Ἴσθι εύνοῶν τῷ ἀντίδικος σου ταχὺ ἔως ὅτου
Agree G2132 G3588 adversary with thine quickly whiles G3755
G2468 G476 G4675 G5035 G2193

εἰ ἐν τῇ ὁδῷ μετ' αὐτοῦ μήποτέ σε παραδῷ
thou art in the way with him lest at any time thee deliver
G1488 G1722 G3588 G3598 G3326 G846 G3379 G4571 G3860

ο ἀντίδικος τῷ κριτής καὶ ο κριτής σε παραδῷ
G3588 adversary G3588 the judge and G3588 the judge thee deliver
G476 G2923 G2532 G2923 G4571 G3860

τῷ ὑπηρέτῃ καὶ εἰς φυλακὴν βληθήσῃ·
G3588 to the officer and into prison thou be cast
G5257 G2532 G1519 G5438 G906

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 25:8 (Parallel theme): Go not forth hastily to strive, lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame.

Hebrews 3:13 (Parallel theme): But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 3:7 (Parallel theme): Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,

Hebrews 12:17 (Parallel theme): For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

Job 22:21 (Parallel theme): Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.

Psalms 32:6 (Parallel theme): For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.

2 Corinthians 6:2 (Parallel theme): (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

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