

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

Ἰσθι	εὐνοῶν	τῷ	ἀντίδικος	σου	ταχὺ	ἕως	οὔτου
Agree	G2132	G3588	adversary	with thine	quickly	whiles	G3755
G2468			G476	G4675	G5035	G2193	
εἶ	ἐν	τῇ	ὁδῷ	μετ'	αὐτοῦ	μήποτε	σε παραδῷ
thou art	in	G3588	the way	with	him	lest at any time	thee deliver
G1488	G1722		G3598	G3326	G846	G3379	G4571 G3860
ὁ	ἀντίδικος	τῷ	κριτῆς	καὶ	ὁ	κριτῆς	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.)