

Psalm 35:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother:
I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth for his mother.

Analysis

The Hebrew intensifies the intimacy: 'rea' (friend), 'ach' (brother), and mourning 'for his mother' represent the deepest human connections. David's grief was authentic, not performative, revealing Christlike compassion for enemies. Yet this very vulnerability became occasion for their attack (v. 15), teaching that godly love risks betrayal but remains the commanded path, for 'while we were yet enemies, Christ died for us' (Romans 5:8).

Historical Context

Mourning rituals in ancient Israel included specific bodily postures and garments. David's adoption of these customs for his enemies' sake showed extraordinary compassion transcending tribal loyalty.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How genuinely do you care for those who may later become adversaries?

2. In what ways does Christ's love for enemies challenge your natural responses?

Interlinear Text

כִּרְעַ	הַתְּבַלֵּכְתִּי	לֵ	כִּאֵ	חִ
myself as though he had been my friend	or brother			
H7453	H251	H0	I behaved	
			H1980	
כִּאֵבֶל	שְׁחַזְתִּי	לִזְרַעַ	אֵ	מִ
as one that mourneth	I bowed down	heavily	for his mother	
H57	H7817	H6937	H517	

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