

Psalms 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

כְּרַעַ	כָּאָ ח	לִי	הִתְהַלַּכְתִּי
myself as though he had been my friend	or brother	H0	I behaved
H7453	H251		H1980
כְּאַחַד	אֵם	קִדְרָה	שָׁחוּתִי:
as one that mourneth	for his mother	heavily	I bowed down
H57	H517	H6937	H7817

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