

Psalms 35:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But in mine adversity they rejoiced, and gathered themselves together: yea, the abjects gathered themselves together against me, and I knew it not; they did tear me, and ceased not:

Analysis

The word 'abjects' (Hebrew 'nakheh') denotes the lowest social class—perhaps mercenaries or ruffians. Their joy at David's 'adversity' (literally 'limping' or stumbling) reveals moral depravity celebrating another's suffering. The phrase 'I knew it not' suggests conspiracy and ambush. This contrasts David's transparency with their deceit, and prophetically pictures Christ's experience: mocked by those He came to save.

Historical Context

Public humiliation was deeply shaming in honor-shame cultures. That strangers gathered against David indicates organized opposition, possibly incited by Saul or Absalom, uniting disparate elements against God's anointed.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you guard against taking pleasure in others' misfortunes?
2. When surrounded by unexpected opposition, where do you find your security?

Interlinear Text

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| וּבְצָלָעִי | שָׂמְחוּ וְ | וַאֲסָפוּ וְ |
| But in mine adversity | they rejoiced | and gathered themselves together |
| H6761 | H8055 | H622 |
| וַאֲסָפוּ וְ | עַל יְ | יְ כִּים וְ לֹא |
| and gathered themselves together | yea the abjects | |
| H622 | H5921 | H5222 H3808 |
| יַד עֲתִי | קָרַע וְ | וְלֹא יָמָּו |
| against me and I knew | it not they did tear | me and ceased |
| H3045 | H7167 | H3808 H1826 |

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 7:2 (Parallel theme): Lest he tear my soul like a lion, rending it in pieces, while there is none to deliver.

Mark 14:65 (Parallel theme): And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophecy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.