

Karen Sweeney January 6,

2025 Grasping God's Word

I have appreciated reading through your assignment, Karen.

Verses: Acts 16:38-39 Five Translations

NLT 16:38 When the police reported this, the city officials were alarmed to learn that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens. 39 So they came to jail and apologized to them. Then they brought them out and begged them to leave the city.

KJV 16:38 And the serjeants told these words unto the magistrates, and they feared, when they heard they were Romans. 39 And they came and besought them, and brought them out, and desired them to depart out of the city.

CSB 16:38 The police reported these words to the magistrates. They were afraid when they heard Paul and Silas were Roman citizens. 39 So they came to appease them, and escorting them from prison, they urged them to leave town.

ASV 16:38 And the serjeants reported these words unto the magistrates, and they feared when they heard that they were Romans; 39 and they came and besought them; and when they had brought them out, they asked them to go away from the city.

ESV 16:38 The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens. 39 So they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city.

The differences among the translations

The main difference between the passages is the emotion of the magistrates.

In the NLT the magistrates were alarmed to learn that Paul and Silas were Romans, and then they apologized and begged them to leave.

In the KJV they feared when they heard they were Romans and besought them and desired for them to leave.

In the CSB translation, the magistrates were afraid and came to appease them, escorting them out and urging them to leave.

In the ASV the magistrates also feared and besought them, and then asked them to leave. The ESV states the magistrates were afraid when they heard they were Romans and came and apologized and then asked them to leave.

All show that the magistrates were afraid but using the words feared and besought evokes a stronger feeling than they were afraid and apologized.

I think you've explained this well -

It is clear these officials were very afraid of the situation they'd got into. I found this information on line that helps explain why -

Roman citizenship also provided certain legal protections to citizens. One of the most important of these protections was the right of ius provocationis, which allowed citizens to appeal to a higher authority if they felt that their legal rights had been violated. This right was a critical safeguard against abuses of power by magistrates and other officials.

Roman citizens were entitled to a legal trial before being punished for any crime. Trials were often held in public, allowing citizens to defend themselves before a magistrate or in the Roman courts.

A critical aspect of the right to a trial was the protection it afforded citizens against arbitrary punishment or execution without due process. No Roman citizen could be summarily punished without first being tried according to law.

Roman citizens were protected from certain humiliating or brutal forms of punishment, such as crucifixion or torture, which were often reserved for non-citizens and slaves. This legal protection was directly tied to the right to a trial; no citizen could be subjected to such punishment without due legal process.

If Paul and Silas had pressed charges – which was their right to do – these officials would have been subjected to pretty severe punishment as an example to other regional authorities to respect the rights of Roman citizens.

It would have been a powerful example to them – and people in the area that the apostles did not do this. They did not use their power to avenge this abuse. In effect, they forgave them – apart from making them acknowledge that they had been in the wrong.

Is the Bible a divine-human book? Why or why not?

I do agree the Bible is a divine-human book but struggle with the interpretations and how the meanings can change by the wording of the passage. Words translated from Greek and Hebrew into English do not always have the exact meaning. Even in the example passages I used; some words evoke a stronger emotion but also, I am left wondering if the interpretations are correct. When interpreters add or omit words or even change a passage all together, it could have a different meaning. I find reading different translations and reading with discernment helps me to understand the passages better.

What is Bible translation?

Why is translation not a simple exercise. The translation of the Bible is to take the original language it was written, which was Greek and Hebrew, and to transfer or rewrite into another language or languages for different people to be able to read it. Translation can be difficult because it must grasp what the original meaning is trying to communicate and keeping it in the context with that culture. The translation should invoke the same meaning and feeling as the original translation without

adding or taking away from the original scripture. In this manner, using the correct form of language can be difficult.

I think that is well explained.

Two main approaches of translation.

The two main approaches of translation are formal and functional. The formal is the use of replicating word for word into the language being translated without looking at the meaning or structure of the sentence. This type of translation can change the meaning of the text or make it hard to understand. The functional translation focuses on the meaning of the original text. Translators consider how to communicate the intent of the text to their desired audience

From how I see things it is most likely to obscure understanding rather than change meaning.

Karen, your choice of Scripture here has made me look into and think about some things I'd not previously considered (beyond the assignment's brief).

It seems to me that Paul learned from this experience he and Silas had in Philippi. The account in Acts 22:25-29 informs us that he avoided a painful flogging by informing those about to dish it out beforehand, rather than after! This highlights for me that if we can get out of pain or persecution without compromising obedience and faith, then we should (Matt 10:23).

There would be many reasons why God through Jesus chose Saul/Paul, as well as ensuring he had Roman citizenship. It all fitted Their purpose.