

John 11:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.

Analysis

Thomas, called Didymus (twin), speaks with resigned courage, urging fellow disciples to accompany Jesus to death. His statement reveals both devotion and misunderstanding—he expects Jesus' death but not resurrection. Thomas' words echo Job's fatalism ('let us die') yet demonstrate loyalty. His courage deserves commendation even while his understanding remains incomplete. This previews Thomas' later doubt (20:24-29), showing consistency in his need for tangible evidence.

Historical Context

Thomas appears prominently in John's Gospel (14:5; 20:24-29; 21:2). His surname Didymus (Greek) and Thomas (Aramaic) both mean 'twin,' suggesting his audience included both Greek and Aramaic speakers.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How can we exhibit Thomas' courage while avoiding his pessimism?

2. What does Thomas' statement teach about incomplete understanding coupled with sincere devotion?
3. In what ways does loyalty to Christ require willingness to face death?

Interlinear Text

εἶπεν οὖν Θωμᾶς τοῖς λεγόμενος Δίδυμος τοῖς
 said Then Thomas which is called Didymus which
 G2036 G3767 G2381 G3588 G3004 G1324 G3588
 συμμαθηταῖς ἄγωμεν καὶ ἡμεῖς ἵνα ἀποθάνωμεν μετ'
 unto his fellowdisciples Let us also we that may die with
 G4827 G71 G2532 G2249 G2443 G599 G3326
 αὐτοῦ
 him
 G846

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 10:3 (Parallel theme): Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

John 21:2 (Parallel theme): There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples.

John 13:37 (Parallel theme): Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake.

Mark 3:18 (Parallel theme): And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite,

Matthew 26:35 (Parallel theme): Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.

Luke 6:15 (Parallel theme): Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes,

Acts 1:13 (Parallel theme): And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

John 14:5 (Parallel theme): Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

John 11:8 (Parallel theme): His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?

Luke 22:33 (Parallel theme): And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.