

John 11:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off:

Analysis

John notes Bethany's proximity to Jerusalem (about fifteen furlongs/two miles), explaining the many Jews present (v. 19). This geographical detail serves apologetic purpose: the miracle occurred near the religious capital with many witnesses. The nearness to Jerusalem also heightens narrative tension—Jesus performs His greatest sign within reach of those plotting His death. This proximity is providential, leading directly to the Sanhedrin's final decision (11:47-53).

Historical Context

Fifteen stadia equals approximately 1.7 miles. Bethany on the Mount of Olives' eastern slope served as Jesus' Jerusalem base during final visits. Archaeological excavations confirm the village's location.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the miracle's proximity to Jerusalem demonstrate Christ's courage?

2. What does the abundance of witnesses teach about God's provision of evidence?
3. In what ways does geography serve God's redemptive purposes?

Interlinear Text

ἦν	δὲ	ἡ	Βηθανία	ἐγγὺς	τῶν	Ἱεροσολύμων	ὥς	ἀπὸ
was	Now	G3588	Bethany	nigh	G3588	unto Jerusalem	about	off
G2258	G1161		G963	G1451		G2414	G5613	G575

σταδίων	δεκαπέντε
furlongs	fifteen
G4712	G1178

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 14:20 (Parallel theme): And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.