

John 11:57

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should shew it, that they might take him.

Analysis

The Sanhedrin issues official orders: anyone knowing Jesus' location must report it for arrest. This demonstrates escalating persecution—from debate to conspiracy to manhunt. The commandment corrupts justice, requiring citizens to betray a teacher. This totalitarian demand previews future Christian persecution. The order also demonstrates the council's fear and desperation—they recognize their inability to control Jesus without public cooperation. Their edict sets the stage for Judas' betrayal, showing how institutional corruption enables individual sin.

Historical Context

The Sanhedrin could issue binding religious edicts with civil enforcement power. This manhunt explains the disciples' fear and Jesus' strategic movements in the following chapters.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does institutional corruption create environments enabling individual sin?
2. What does the Sanhedrin's desperate manhunt reveal about their fear of truth?
3. When have you witnessed authorities demanding cooperation in opposing God's truth?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| δεδώκεισαν | δὲ | καὶ | οἱ | ἀρχιερεῖς | καὶ | οἱ | Φαρισαῖοι |
| had given G1325 | Now G1161 | and G2532 | G3588 | the chief priests G749 | and G2532 | G3588 | the Pharisees G5330 |
| ἐντολὴν | ἵνα | ἐάν | τις | γινῶ | ποῦ | ἐστιν | μηνύσῃ |
| a commandment G1785 | that G2443 | if G1437 | any man G5100 | knew G1097 | where G4226 | he were G2076 | he should shew G3377 |
| ὅπως | πιάσωσιν | αὐτόν | | | | | |
| it that G3704 | they might take G4084 | him G846 | | | | | |

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