

John 12:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.

Analysis

John notes precise chronology: six days before Passover, Jesus returns to Bethany, placing Him in danger's proximity. The mention of Lazarus identifies location and sets up the supper's significance—the raised man sits with the Raiser. This dinner probably occurred on the Jewish Sabbath (Saturday evening), making the next day's entry (12:12) Sunday. The chronological precision demonstrates eyewitness testimony. Jesus' return to Bethany shows courage—He enters the danger zone at God's appointed time.

Historical Context

Six days before Passover was likely Saturday evening (Sabbath end) when meals were permissible. Bethany remained Jesus' Jerusalem-area base despite danger. The village's proximity to the city made this return strategic but dangerous.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' return to Bethany teach about obedience despite danger?
2. How does the chronological precision confirm the Gospel's eyewitness nature?
3. In what ways does God's perfect timing combine courage and wisdom?

Interlinear Text

ὅ	οὖν	Ἰησοῦς	πρὸ	ἕξ	ἡμερῶν	ὅ	πάσχα	ἦλθεν
which	Then	Jesus	before	six	days	which	the passover	came
G3588	G3767	G2424	G4253	G1803	G2250	G3588	G3957	G2064
εἰς	Βηθανίαν	ὅπου	ἦν	Λάζαρος	ὅ	τεθνηκώς,	ὃν	
to	Bethany	where	was	Lazarus	which	had been dead	whom	
G1519	G963	G3699	G2258	G2976	G3588	G2348	G3739	
ἤγειρεν	ἐκ	νεκρῶν						
he raised	from	the dead						
G1453	G1537	G3498						

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 21:17 (Parallel theme): And he left them, and went out of the city into Bethany; and he lodged there.

Luke 24:50 (Parallel theme): And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

John 11:55 (Parallel theme): And the Jews' passover was nigh at hand: and many went out of the country up to Jerusalem before the passover, to purify themselves.

John 11:1 (Parallel theme): Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

John 12:20 (Parallel theme): And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast:

