

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

Ὀ οὖν Ἰησοῦς πρὸ ἔξ ἡμερῶν Ὁ 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 Ὁ τεθνηκώς, ὅν
to Bethany where was Lazarus which had been dead whom
G1519 G963 G3699 G2258 G2976 G3588 G2348 G3739

ἥγειρεν 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:

