

John 12:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him.

Analysis

They prepare a supper honoring Jesus, with Martha serving (consistent with her character, Luke 10:40). Lazarus' presence at the table demonstrates resurrection's reality—he lives, eats, and fellowships. His silent presence testifies more powerfully than words. Martha's service shows genuine hospitality, not mere duty. The meal's fellowship dimension contrasts the Sanhedrin's murder plot. This supper embodies kingdom values: resurrection life, loving service, intimate communion. It previews the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Historical Context

Reclining at table was standard first-century dining posture for formal meals. Martha's serving role was appropriate for women hosting guests, though Jesus had earlier affirmed Mary's right to learn (Luke 10:42).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Lazarus' silent presence at the table testify to resurrection power?

2. What does the contrast between this supper and the Sanhedrin's plotting teach about kingdom values?
3. In what ways does Christian fellowship preview eternal glory?

Interlinear Text

ἐποίησαν	οὗν	αὐτῷ	δεῖπνον	ἐκεῖ	καὶ	ἡ	Μάρθα
they made	G3767	him	a supper	There	and	G3588	Martha
G4160		G846	G1173	G1563	G2532		G3136
διηκόνει	ό	δε	Λάζαρος	εῖς	ἥν	τῶν	
served	G3588	but	Lazarus	one	was	G3588	
G1247		G1161	G2976	G1520	G2258		
συνανακειμένων		αὐτῷ					
of them that sat at the table		him					
G4873		G846					

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 3:20 (Parallel theme): Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Luke 22:27 (Parallel theme): For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.

Mark 14:3 (Parallel theme): And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head.