

John 12:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son,
which should betray him,

Analysis

Judas Iscariot objects to Mary's 'waste,' identified by John as the betrayer. The name's repetition ('Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him') emphasizes his infamy. Judas represents religious people who value utility over worship, calculation over love. His objection sounds pious but masks greed (v. 6). The contrast is stark: Mary's extravagant love versus Judas' calculating theft. This demonstrates that proximity to Jesus doesn't guarantee genuine discipleship. Judas proves that one can be near Christ yet remain unregenerate.

Historical Context

Judas' surname 'Iscariot' likely means 'man of Kerioth,' distinguishing him from other Judases. His role as treasurer (v. 6) gave him access to funds and opportunity for theft.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Judas' religious objection mask spiritual deadness?

2. What's the difference between wise stewardship and calculating worship?
3. In what ways do we value utility over extravagant love for Christ?

Interlinear Text

λέγει	οὖν	εἷς	ἐκ	ὁ	μαθητῶν	αὐτὸν	Ἰούδας
saith	Then	one	of	son which	disciples	him	Judas
G3004	G3767	G1520	G1537	G3588	G3101	G846	G2455
Σίμωνος	Ἰσκαριώτης	ὁ	μέλλων	αὐτὸν	παραδιδόναι		
Simon's	Iscariot	son which	should	him	betray		
G4613	G2469	G3588	G3195	G846	G3860		

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 10:4 (Parallel theme): Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

John 13:2 (Parallel theme): And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;

John 13:26 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.