

# John 13:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake.

## Analysis

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**Then the disciples looked one on another** (ἐβλεπον εἰς ἀλλήλους, *blepōn eis allēlous*)—the imperfect tense suggests they kept looking, scanning faces. Each wonders if he might be the traitor. **Doubting of whom he spake** (ἀπορούμενοι, *aporoumenoi*)—complete perplexity and confusion. The word suggests being at a loss, unable to determine the answer. No one suspects Judas specifically.

This reveals two realities: First, Judas had concealed his betrayal so perfectly that the closest companions didn't suspect him. His hypocrisy was seamless. Second, the disciples knew their own hearts enough to wonder if they might betray Christ. Self-knowledge produces healthy uncertainty—"Lord, is it I?" (Matthew 26:22). The disciples' confusion contrasts with Jesus' certainty. He knows all things (John 2:24-25, 21:17); they know nothing. This moment creates dramatic tension—all remain in suspense except Jesus and Judas.

## Historical Context

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The disciples' bewilderment emphasizes Judas' deception. As treasurer (John 12:6), he held trusted position. Ancient readers familiar with the betrayal narrative see dramatic irony—we know what they don't. John writes decades after the event, reflecting on how completely Judas fooled everyone except Jesus.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. What does the disciples' inability to identify Judas teach about the deceptiveness of sin?
2. How should healthy self-awareness lead us to examine our own hearts for potential betrayal of Christ?

## Interlinear Text

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ἔβλεπον	οὖν	εἰς	ἀλλήλους	οἱ	μαθηταὶ
<b>looked</b>	<b>Then</b>	<b>one on another</b>			<b>the disciples</b>
G991	G3767	G1519	G240	G3588	G3101

ἀπορούμενοι	περὶ	τίνος	λέγει
<b>doubting</b>	<b>of</b>	<b>whom</b>	<b>he spake</b>
G639	G4012	G5101	G3004

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 22:23** (Parallel theme): And they began to enquire among themselves, which of them it was that should do this thing.

**Mark 14:19** (Parallel theme): And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? and another said, Is it I?

**Matthew 26:22** (Parallel theme): And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?