

John 13:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake.

Analysis

Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him (*νεύει*, *neuei*)—Peter gestures, likely not wanting to interrupt the meal or speak over Jesus. Peter's characteristic boldness appears even here; he wants to know immediately who will betray Christ. **That he should ask who it should be**—Peter delegates the question to John, who has proximity to Jesus. This reveals the disciples' social dynamics and John's privileged position.

Peter's use of John as intermediary shows practical wisdom (John is closer) and perhaps tact (avoiding public confrontation). Yet it also reveals Peter's urgent need to know. Later Peter will claim greater loyalty than all others (Mark 14:29); here he wants the traitor identified. The scene demonstrates the disciples' corporate concern—they want the betrayer exposed. Peter and John work together, foreshadowing their later partnership in Acts (Acts 3-4, 8:14).

Historical Context

First-century table fellowship had social protocols. Peter, not seated next to Jesus, uses appropriate means to communicate with Him through John. The seating arrangement reflects Jesus' special relationship with John. Peter and John represent complementary personalities—impulsive boldness and reflective intimacy—both essential to apostolic ministry.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do Peter and John's different approaches to Jesus model diverse but complementary relationships with Christ?
2. What does Peter's eagerness to identify the betrayer reveal about his loyalty and later denial?

Interlinear Text

νεύει	οὖν	τούτῳ	Σίμων	Πέτρος	πυθέσθαι	τίς
beckoned	therefore	to him	Simon	Peter	that he should ask	who
G3506	G3767	G5129	G4613	G4074	G4441	G5101

αὐ	εῖη	περὶ	οὖ	λέγει
it should	be	of	whom	he spake
G302	G1498	G4012	G3739	G3004

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