

# John 13:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it?

## Analysis

**He then lying on Jesus' breast** (ἐπιπεσὼν ἐπὶ τὸ στῆθος, epipesōn epi to stēthos)—John leans back onto Jesus' chest, the position enabling quiet conversation. The intimacy is profound; John's head rests where he can hear Jesus' heartbeat. This physical closeness pictures spiritual intimacy available to all believers through the Spirit. **Saith unto him, Lord, who is it?**—direct, simple question. John asks what Peter wanted to know.

John's courage to ask stems from relationship security. He knows Jesus loves him (v. 23), so he boldly inquires. The question is whispered privately—Jesus doesn't yet publicly expose Judas. This gentle handling of the betrayer demonstrates Jesus' mercy even toward those who will destroy Him. Jesus could have shouted the accusation; instead He answers John quietly and gives Judas a final opportunity (v. 26) before the betrayer chooses his own path.

## Historical Context

The question and answer occur in whispered conversation, which explains why the other disciples don't hear (Matthew 26:22 shows they all asked "Lord, is it I?"). Ancient dining couches facilitated such private exchanges. John records this detail decades later, emphasizing the privileged communication he shared with Jesus.

## Related Passages

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does John's physical proximity to Jesus symbolize the intimate relationship believers can have with Christ?
2. What does Jesus' quiet response to John (rather than public exposure of Judas) teach about His mercy?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐπιπεσὼν	δὲ	ἐκεῖνος	ἐπὶ	τὸ	στῆθος	τοῦ	Ἰησοῦ	λέγει
lying on	then	He	G1909	G3588	breast	G3588	Jesus	saih
G1968	G1161	G1565			G4738		G2424	G3004
αὐτῷ	Κύριε	τίς	ἐστιν					
unto him	Lord	who	is it					
G846	G2962	G5101	G2076					

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 21:20** (References Jesus): Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?