

John 13:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop (ψωμίον, psōmion)—a morsel of bread dipped in sauce, wine, or bitter herbs, typically a gesture of honor at a Passover meal. By identifying the betrayer through this act, Jesus demonstrates both sovereign knowledge and one final offer of fellowship to Judas. The psōmion was culturally significant: the host would dip bread and give it to a favored guest.

Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon (Ιούδας Σίμωνος Ἰσκαριώτης)—John's full identification underscores the specificity and certainty of Jesus's knowledge. Despite receiving this honored morsel, Judas remains unmoved. This moment crystallizes the mystery of divine sovereignty and human responsibility: Jesus knows, yet Judas chooses.

Historical Context

At a first-century Jewish meal, especially Passover, the host offering a choice morsel to a guest was an act of special favor and intimacy. Jesus's gesture was culturally loaded with meaning—a final invitation to repent. The disciples reclined at table, making the exchange subtle enough that others didn't comprehend its significance.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's tender gesture toward Judas challenge your understanding of divine mercy toward those who reject Him?
2. What does the disciples' failure to recognize Judas reveal about the subtlety of spiritual betrayal?
3. In what ways might you be receiving Christ's gracious offerings while harboring a divided heart?

Interlinear Text

ἀποκρίνεται	ό	Ἰησοῦς	Ἐκεῖνός	ἐστιν	ῷ	ἐγὼ
answered	G3588	Jesus	He	it is	to whom	when I
G611		G2424	G1565	G2076	G3739	G1473
βάψας	τὸ	ψωμίον	ἐπιδώσω	καὶ	ἐμβάψας	τὸ
have dipped	G3588	a sop	I shall give	it And	when he had dipped	G3588
G911		G5596	G1929	G2532	G1686	
ψωμίον	δίδωσιν	Ἰούδα	Σίμωνος	Ἰσκαριώτη		
a sop	he gave	it to Judas	the son of Simon	Iscariot		
G5596	G1325	G2455	G4613	G2469		

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 26:23 (Parallel theme): And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me.

Luke 22:21 (Parallel theme): But, behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on the table.

