

John 13:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor.

Analysis

Because Judas had the bag (τὸ γλωσσόκομον, to glōssokomon)—originally a case for storing mouthpieces of wind instruments, here a money box or purse. Judas was the group's treasurer, handling finances for Jesus's itinerant ministry. John 12:6 reveals he was a thief who pilfered from this fund, making his betrayal for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:15) particularly sordid—selling Christ for money while already stealing from Him.

Buy those things that we have need of... or give something to the poor—the disciples' speculation shows Jesus's consistent pattern of caring for the poor (Galatians 2:10). Even on the night of His arrest, they assumed He might send Judas on a mercy mission. This reveals Christ's habitual generosity and the disciples' blindness to impending betrayal.

Historical Context

Passover lasted eight days (including Unleavened Bread), requiring provisions. Jerusalem swelled from 50,000 to 200,000+ pilgrims, creating both commercial opportunity and intensified poverty. Jesus's ministry consistently gave to the poor (John 12:5-6), making the disciples' assumption reasonable. Judas's role as treasurer gave him legitimate reason to leave without suspicion.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How did Judas's love of money (1 Timothy 6:10) create the spiritual blindness that led to betraying Christ?
2. What does Jesus's consistent care for the poor teach about true discipleship priorities?
3. Are you stewarding resources faithfully, or does covetousness compromise your devotion to Christ?

Interlinear Text

τι	γὰρ	ἐδόκουν	ἐπεὶ	τὸ	γλωσσόκομον	ἔχομεν	ὁ
some	For	of them thought	because	G3588	the bag	had	G3588
G5100	G1063	G1380	G1893		G1101	G2192	
Ἰούδας	ὅτι	λέγει	αὐτῷ	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	Ἀγόρασον	
Judas	that	had said	unto him	G3588	Jesus	Buy	
G2455	G3754	G3004	G846		G2424	G59	
ὧν	χρεῖαν	ἔχομεν	εἰς	τὴν	ἐορτήν	ἢ	τοῖς
those things that	need of	had	against	G3588	the feast	or	G3588
G3739	G5532	G2192	G1519		G1859	G2228	
πτωχοῖς	ἵνα	τι	δῶ				
to the poor	that	some	he should give				
G4434	G2443	G5100	G1325				

