

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 χρείαν ἔχομεν εἰς τὴν ἑορτήν 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

