

John 19:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified.
And they took Jesus, and led him away.

Analysis

Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified (τότε οὖν παρέδωκεν αὐτὸν αὐτοῖς ἵνα σταυρωθῇ/tote oun paredōken auton autois hina staurōthē)—the verb paredōken (delivered, handed over) echoes throughout the passion narrative. Judas delivered Jesus to the priests (18:2), the priests delivered Him to Pilate (18:35), now Pilate delivers Him to crucifixion. The chain of human betrayal serves divine purpose.

The passive voice staurōthē (to be crucified) indicates Jesus is the object of others' actions, yet John's Gospel makes clear Jesus lays down His life voluntarily (10:18). **They took Jesus, and led him away** (παρέλαβον οὖν τὸν Ἰησοῦν/parelabon oun ton Iēsoun)—the Via Dolorosa begins. He who led Israel through the wilderness is now led to slaughter. He who is the Way is led along the way of the cross.

Historical Context

Roman crucifixion protocol required the condemned to carry the patibulum (crossbeam) through public streets to the execution site. This served as deterrent—showing Rome's power and the consequences of opposing it. That Jesus initially carried His own cross (v.17) fulfilled Isaac's carrying wood for his own sacrifice (Genesis 22:6), until Simon of Cyrene was pressed into service (Matthew 27:32).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the chain of human 'delivering' and 'handing over' reveal our collective guilt in Christ's death?
2. What does it mean that Jesus was simultaneously passively acted upon (delivered, led) and actively accomplishing His mission?
3. When you trace the Via Dolorosa narratively, whose sins put Jesus on that path?

Interlinear Text

τότε	οὖν	παρέδωκεν	αὐτοῖς	αὐτοῖς	ἵνα	σταυρωθῇ
Then	therefore	delivered he	him	him	to	be crucified
G5119	G3767	G3860	G846	G846	G2443	G4717

Παρέλαβον	δὲ	τὸν	Ἰησοῦν	καὶ	ἀπήγαγον·
they took	And	G3588	Jesus	and	led him away
G3880	G1161		G2424	G2532	G520