

Luke 19:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when he was come nigh to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount called the mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples,

Analysis

When he was come nigh to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount called the mount of Olives—these villages lay on Jerusalem's eastern approach, separated by the Kidron Valley. Bethphage (Βηθφαγή, Bēthphagē) means 'house of unripe figs,' while Bethany (Βηθανία, Bēthania) means 'house of affliction' or 'house of dates.' The Mount of Olives (τὸ ὄρος τῶν Ἐλαιῶν, to oros tōn Elaiōn) held messianic significance from Zechariah 14:4, where the Messiah's feet would stand on this mountain at His return.

Luke alone mentions both villages, emphasizing geographical precision. Jesus had ministered in Bethany (at Lazarus's home, John 11-12) and now orchestrates His royal entry from this staging ground. The Mount of Olives overlooks the Temple Mount—from here, Jesus would survey the city He came to redeem yet must judge.

Historical Context

Bethphage and Bethany were small villages within two miles of Jerusalem's eastern wall. The Mount of Olives rises about 200 feet above the Temple Mount, offering a panoramic view of the city. Jewish tradition held that the Messiah would appear from the east, making this approach symbolically charged. Roman governors typically entered Jerusalem from the west with military pomp.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Why might Jesus have chosen to enter from the Mount of Olives rather than through Jerusalem's main gates?
2. How does Jesus's intimate knowledge of Bethany (Lazarus's town) inform His emotions during this triumphal entry?
3. What does Christ's careful staging of His entry teach about the relationship between divine sovereignty and human detail?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐγένετο	ώς	ἥγγισεν	εἰς	Βηθφαγὴ	καὶ
And	it came to pass	when	he was come nigh	to	Bethphage	And
G2532	G1096	G5613	G1448	G1519	G967	G2532
Βηθανίαν	πρὸς	τὸ	ὄρος	τὸ	καλούμενον	Ἐλαιῶν
Bethany	at	G3588	the mount	G3588	called	the mount of Olives
G963	G4314	G3735			G2564	G1636
ἀπέστειλεν	δύο	τῶν	μαθητῶν	αὐτοῦ,		
he sent	two	G3588	disciples	G846		
G649	G1417		G3101			

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 21:17 (Parallel theme): And he left them, and went out of the city into Bethany; and he lodged there.

Acts 1:12 (Parallel theme): Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

Zechariah 14:4 (Parallel theme): And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org