

Luke 19:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he taught daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to destroy him,

Analysis

And he taught daily in the temple (Καὶ ἦν διδάσκων τὸ καθ' ἡμέραν ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ, Kai ēn didaskōn to kath' hēmeran en tō hierō)—After cleansing the temple, Jesus occupies it. The imperfect periphrastic construction ēn didaskōn (he was teaching) emphasizes continuous, repeated action. Kath' hēmeran (daily, each day) shows Jesus's public ministry during Passion Week—He doesn't hide but openly claims teaching authority in Israel's central religious space.

But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to destroy him (οἱ δὲ ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ οἱ γραμματεῖς ἐζήτουν αὐτὸν ἀπολέσαι, hoi de archiereis kai hoi grammateis ezētoun auton apolesai)—three power groups unite against Jesus: religious leaders (archiereis, chief priests), theological experts (grammateis, scribes), and political influencers (chief of the people). Zēteō apolesai (were seeking to destroy) uses the imperfect tense for ongoing plotting and the aorist infinitive for definite intention: total destruction, not mere silencing. The temple cleansing was last straw—Jesus threatened their economic and religious power base.

Historical Context

The Sadducean priesthood controlled the temple and collaborated with Rome to maintain power. Jesus's action disrupted their revenue and exposed their corruption. The Sanhedrin (scribes and chief priests) saw Jesus as dangerous

revolutionary. By week's end, they would deliver Him to Pilate, accomplishing the destruction they sought—unknowingly fulfilling God's plan.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Why did Jesus continue teaching publicly in the temple despite knowing the leaders sought to kill Him?
2. How does religious establishment often feel most threatened by those who call it back to its true mission?
3. What does the alliance between religious, intellectual, and political powers teach about opposition to God's truth?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἦν	διδάσκων	τὸ	καθ'	ἡμέραν	ἐν	τῷ	ἱερῷ
And G2532	he taught G2258	G1321	G3588	daily G2596	G2250	in G1722	G3588	the temple G2411
οἱ	δὲ	ἀρχιερεῖς	καὶ	οἱ	γραμματεῖς	ἐζήτουν	αὐτὸν	
G3588	But G1161	the chief priests G749	And G2532	G3588	the scribes G1122	sought G2212	him G846	
ἀπολέσαι	καὶ	οἱ	πρῶτοι	τοῦ	λαοῦ			
to destroy G622	And G2532	G3588	the chief G4413	G3588	of the people G2992			

Additional Cross-References

Mark 11:18 (Parallel theme): And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at his doctrine.

Matthew 26:55 (Temple): In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org