

Luke 21:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in the day time he was teaching in the temple; and at night he went out, and abode in the mount that is called the mount of Olives.

Analysis

And in the day time he was teaching in the temple (Ἦν δὲ τὰς ἡμέρας ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ διδάσκων, Ἐν de tas hēmeras en tō hierō didaskōn)—The imperfect periphrastic construction ἔν didaskōn (he was teaching) emphasizes continuous action throughout Passion Week. Tas hēmeras (the days, during the daytime) contrasts with nighttime withdrawal. Jesus maximizes teaching opportunity in His final week, publicly proclaiming truth despite mounting opposition.

And at night he went out, and abode in the mount that is called the mount of Olives (τὰς δὲ νύκτας ἐξερχόμενος ἡλίζετο εἰς τὸ ὄρος τὸ καλούμενον Ἐλαιῶν, tas de nyktas exerchomenos ēlizeto eis to oros to kaloumenon Elaiōn)—Exerchomai (to go out) suggests leaving the city; aulizomai (to lodge, spend the night) in imperfect tense shows habitual pattern. The Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem across the Kidron Valley, offered seclusion and safety from nighttime arrest—at least until Judas revealed the location (22:39-48).

Historical Context

During Passover, Jerusalem's population swelled from 40,000 to over 200,000, making lodging scarce. Many pilgrims camped on surrounding hillsides. Jesus's pattern of public teaching but private retreat demonstrates wisdom—maintaining accessibility while avoiding premature arrest. The Olivet location also has

prophetic significance: Zechariah 14:4 prophesies Messiah's feet standing on the Mount of Olives at His return.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How did Jesus balance bold public ministry with strategic withdrawal for rest and prayer?
2. What does Jesus's pattern of daytime engagement and nighttime retreat teach about sustainable ministry rhythms?
3. How can we maintain both faithful presence in the world and necessary separation for spiritual renewal?

Interlinear Text

Ἦν	δὲ	τὰς	ἡμέρας	ἐν	τῷ	ἱερῷ	διδάσκων	τὰς
he was	And	G3588	in the day time	in	G3588	the temple	teaching	G3588
G2258	G1161		G2250	G1722		G2411	G1321	
δὲ	νύκτας	ἐξερχόμενος	ἠυλίζετο	εἰς	τὸ	ὄρος	τὸ	
And	at night	he went out	and abode	in	G3588	the mount	G3588	
G1161	G3571	G1831	G835	G1519		G3735		
καλούμενον	Ἐλαιῶν·							
that is called	the mount of Olives							
G2564	G1636							

Additional Cross-References

Luke 22:39 (Parallel theme): And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him.

Mark 11:19 (Parallel theme): And when even was come, he went out of the city.

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

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.

Matthew 21:1 (Parallel theme): And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples,

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

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