

Luke 22:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer:

Analysis

And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer. Jesus' opening words are emphatic—With desire I have desired (Ἐπιθυμίᾳ ἐπεθύμησα, Epithymia epethymēsa) uses Hebrew intensive construction (cognate dative) conveying passionate longing: 'I have earnestly/intensely desired.' This wasn't duty but deep personal yearning to share this moment **with you** (μεθ' ὑμῶν, meth' hymōn) before His Passion.

Before I suffer (πρὸ τοῦ με παθεῖν, pro tou me pathein) reveals Jesus' full awareness of coming agony. Pathein (aorist active infinitive of πάσχω, 'to suffer') encompasses the totality: betrayal, arrest, trial, scourging, crucifixion. Yet He desired this meal beforehand—intimacy before isolation, fellowship before suffering, communion before sacrifice. His desire wasn't to avoid the cross but to share this covenant meal establishing what the cross would accomplish. Christ's longing for fellowship with His own reveals the Father-heart of God seeking communion with redeemed sinners.

Historical Context

Jesus spoke these words as the formal Passover liturgy began, probably just before or during the first cup (the Cup of Sanctification). The traditional haggadah recounted Israel's Egyptian bondage and God's deliverance. Jesus was about to transform this backward-looking memorial into a forward-looking anticipation of Kingdom consummation.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' 'earnest desire' to share this meal with the disciples reveal about His heart toward intimate fellowship with believers?
2. How should knowing Christ desired communion with His disciples before suffering shape your approach to the Lord's Table?
3. In what ways do you cultivate the kind of intimate fellowship with Christ that He clearly values and desires?

Interlinear Text

καὶ εἶπεν πρὸς αὐτούς Ἐπιθυμίᾳ ἐπεθύμησα τοῦτο τὸ
And he said unto them With desire I have desired this G3588
G2532 G2036 G4314 G846 G1939 G1937 G5124

πάσχα φαγεῖν μεθ' ὑμῶν πρὸ τοῦ με παθεῖν.
passover to eat with you before G3588 I suffer G3958
G3957 G5315 G3326 G5216 G4253 G3165

Additional Cross-References

Luke 12:50 (Parallel theme): But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!

John 13:1 (Parallel theme): Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

John 4:34 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

