

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 (Ἐπιθυμία 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	Ἐπιθυμία	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
G3957	G5315	G3326	G5216	G4253		G3165	G3958

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.

