

Luke 22:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But, behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on the table.

Analysis

The hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on the table—Judas, the betrayer (ὁ παραδιδούς με, ho paradidous me), reclined at the sacred Passover meal even as Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. The intimacy of shared table fellowship (κοινωνία, koinonia) in Jewish culture made this betrayal particularly heinous—Psalm 41:9 prophesied, "mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me."

Jesus revealed the betrayal immediately after establishing the New Covenant in His blood, showing that divine sovereignty encompasses even treachery. The proximity of the hand (ἡ χεὶρ, he cheir) emphasizes the shocking nearness of evil to holiness, yet Christ's mission remained unhindered.

Historical Context

First-century Passover meals involved reclining at a low table with fellow participants in close physical proximity. Sharing bread and wine created covenant bonds of loyalty and trust. Judas's betrayal violated the most sacred social and religious obligations of Jewish culture, making his act incomprehensibly wicked to the other disciples.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Judas's participation in the Lord's Supper while planning betrayal warn against presuming on God's grace through mere ritual observance?
2. What does Jesus's calm acknowledgment of betrayal reveal about His sovereignty over evil circumstances?
3. In what ways might we 'betray' Christ while maintaining outward religious participation?

Interlinear Text

πλὴν	ἰδοῦ,	ἡ	χεὶρ	τοῦ	παραδιδόντος	με	μετ'
But	behold	G3588	the hand	G3588	of him that betrayeth	me	is with
G4133	G2400		G5495		G3860	G3165	G3326
ἐμοῦ	ἐπὶ	τῆς	τραπέζης·				
me	on	G3588	the table				
G1700	G1909		G5132				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 41:9 (Parallel theme): Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.

John 13:26 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.