

Luke 22:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they began to enquire among themselves, which of them it was that should do this thing.

Analysis

They began to enquire among themselves, which of them it was (τὸ τίς ἄρα εἴη, to tis ara eie)—The disciples' question reveals their genuine confusion and, remarkably, their self-awareness of potential sin. Each asked "Is it I?" (Matthew 26:22), showing they recognized their own capacity for betrayal. This honest self-examination contrasts with Judas's feigned innocence.

The Greek construction indicates ongoing, intense discussion (ἐπιζητέω, epizeteo—to seek earnestly). Even in this solemn moment, the Twelve couldn't identify the traitor among them—Judas's external conformity had been convincing. This warns that apostasy can masquerade as authentic faith, even among the closest disciples (1 John 2:19).

Historical Context

The Passover setting included reclining positions that made it difficult to identify who Jesus meant. Jewish culture valued group solidarity, so the accusation of betrayal would have shocked all participants. The disciples' inability to detect Judas's true heart demonstrates how skillfully he concealed his greed and unbelief for three years.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What does the disciples' self-questioning teach about the importance of regular spiritual self-examination?
2. How can we better discern genuine faith from convincing counterfeits in our communities?
3. Why is it dangerous to assume we are immune to serious spiritual failure?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	αὐτῶν	ἥρξαντο	συζητεῖν	πρὸς	ἐαυτούς	τὸ	τίς
And	them	began	to enquire	among	themselves	G3588	which
G2532	G846	G756	G4802	G4314	G1438		G5101
ἀρα	εἴη	ἐξ	αὐτῶν	ό	τοῦτο	μέλλων	πράσσειν
G687	it was	of	them	G3588	this thing	that should	do
	G1498	G1537	G846		G5124	G3195	G4238

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