

Luke 22:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.

Analysis

Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve. Luke uniquely specifies Satan's direct agency in the betrayal. The verb entered (εἰσῆλθεν, eisēlthen, aorist active) indicates definitive action—this is demonic possession, not mere temptation. Satan (Σατανᾶς, Satanas, 'adversary') himself, not a lesser demon, enters Judas Iscariot (Ἰούδαν τὸν καλούμενον Ἰσκαριώτην, Ioudan ton kaloumenon Iskariōtēn).

Luke stresses the horror: Judas was **of the number of the twelve** (ὄντα ἐκ τοῦ ἀριθμοῦ τῶν δώδεκα, onta ek tou arithmou tōn dōdeka)—an insider, chosen apostle who heard Jesus' teaching, witnessed miracles, shared table fellowship. Yet Satan found access, likely through Judas' greed (John 12:6). This doesn't absolve Judas' responsibility; rather, it reveals how human sin opens doors to demonic exploitation. The cosmic battle behind the Passion becomes explicit: Satan seeks to destroy the Messiah, but God will use Satan's own scheme to accomplish redemption.

Historical Context

Satanic possession was recognized in first-century Judaism, distinct from illness or general temptation. Judas' surname 'Iscariot' likely means 'man of Kerioth' (a Judean town), making him possibly the only non-Galilean among the Twelve. His access to the money bag (John 13:29) gave him unique opportunities for theft.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Judas' example warn against allowing persistent sin (like greed) to create footholds for deeper spiritual darkness?
2. What does Satan's direct involvement in the betrayal reveal about the cosmic stakes of Christ's Passion?
3. How should the reality of spiritual warfare inform your vigilance against compromise and sin?

Interlinear Text

Εἰσῆλθεν	δὲ	ὁ	Σατανᾶς	εἰς	Ἰούδαν	τὸν
entered G1525	Then G1161	G3588	Satan G4567	into G1519	Judas G2455	G3588
ἐπικαλούμενον	Ἰσκαριώτην	ὄντα	ἐκ	τοῦ	ἀριθμοῦ	τῶν
surnamed G1941	Iscaiot G2469	being G5607	of G1537	G3588	the number G706	G3588
δώδεκα·						
of the twelve G1427						

Additional Cross-References

John 13:2 (Parallel theme): And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;

John 13:18 (Parallel theme): I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.

Acts 5:3 (Parallel theme): But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

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.

Luke 22:21 (Parallel theme): But, behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on the table.

John 12:6 (Parallel theme): This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

Luke 6:16 (Parallel theme): And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.

Matthew 26:23 (Parallel theme): And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me.