

Luke 22:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray him unto them.

Analysis

And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray him unto them. Judas' initiative is chilling—he went his way (ἀπελθών, *apelthōn*, aorist participle) suggests deliberate departure from Jesus to the Sanhedrin. He communed (συνελάλησεν, *synelalēsen*, 'spoke together/conferred') with both **chief priests** (ἀρχιερεῖσιν, *archiereusin*, the Sadducean aristocracy) and **captains** (στρατηγοῖς, *stratēgois*, the temple police commanders)—a comprehensive conspiracy involving religious and security leadership.

The verb betray (παράδῶ, *paradō*, aorist active subjunctive of παραδίδωμι, *paradidōmi*) means 'hand over/deliver up,' the same word used of Christ being 'delivered' for our sins (Romans 4:25). Judas becomes the instrument of Christ's delivering, unwittingly fulfilling prophecy (Psalm 41:9) while fully culpable for his treachery. The question isn't whether to betray but **how** (πῶς, *pōs*)—the method, the opportune moment away from crowds.

Historical Context

The 'captains' were officers of the temple guard (Luke 22:52, Acts 4:1), responsible for maintaining order on the Temple Mount. Their involvement shows the conspiracy crossed factional lines—Sadducean priests and their security apparatus united against Jesus. Meeting Judas secretly avoided public knowledge of an insider's cooperation.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What warning does Judas' calculated betrayal offer about the progression from secret sin to overt rebellion?
2. How does recognizing that Jesus was 'delivered up' by divine plan (Acts 2:23) alongside human treachery deepen your understanding of sovereignty and responsibility?
3. In what subtle ways might you 'betray' Christ by choosing convenience over costly discipleship?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἀπελθὼν	συνελάλησεν	τοῖς	ἀρχιερεῦσιν	καὶ	τοῖς
And	he went his way	and communed with	G3588	the chief priests	And	G3588
G2532	G565	G4814		G749	G2532	
στρατηγοῖς	τὸ	πῶς	αὐτοῖς	παραδῶ	αὐτοῖς	
captains	G3588	how	him	he might betray	him	
G4755		G4459	G846	G3860	G846	

Additional Cross-References

Acts 5:24 (Parallel theme): Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow.

Acts 4:1 (Parallel theme): And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,

