

Luke 22:53

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

Analysis

When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness. Jesus identifies the true nature of the conflict: spiritual warfare, not political dispute. The contrast *kath' hēmeran ontos mou en tō hierō* (καθ' ἡμέραν ὄντος μου ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ, 'daily being in the temple') versus night arrest exposes their deception. Jesus taught publicly in God's house while they operate in darkness—literally and spiritually. The phrase *hautē estin hē hōra hymōn kai hē exousia tou skotous* (αὕτη ἐστὶν ἡ ὥρα ὑμῶν καὶ ἡ ἐξουσία τοῦ σκοτίους, 'this is your hour and the authority of darkness') reveals divine sovereignty: this evil moment is both their *hōra* (ὥρα, 'hour,' appointed time) and Satan's *exousia* (ἐξουσία, 'authority').

Yet God's sovereignty encompasses even evil's 'authority.' Jesus submits not to human power but to the Father's will (v. 42). The 'darkness' is theological—Satan's domain (Ephesians 6:12, 'rulers of the darkness of this world'). This arrest represents cosmic battle: the 'power of darkness' versus the Light of the world (John 8:12). Darkness can only 'triumph' when Light permits it, for God's purposes.

Historical Context

Jesus had taught in the Temple during Passover week (Luke 19:47-48, 21:37-38), with crowds preventing His arrest. The religious leaders needed Judas to identify Jesus in a private location at night. 'This is your hour' acknowledges limited human

agency within divine providence—they have freedom to act, but only within God's sovereign plan. Early Christians understood this: Acts 4:27-28 states Herod and Pilate did 'whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.'

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' reference to 'darkness' reframe the arrest as spiritual warfare?
2. What does 'your hour' teach about God's sovereignty over evil actions?
3. Why do opponents of truth typically operate in 'darkness'—secrecy rather than public discourse?

Interlinear Text

καθ'	ἡμέραν	ὄντος	μου	μεθ'	ὑμῶν	ἐν	τῷ	ἱερῷ	οὐκ
G2596	daily	When	I	with	you	in	G3588	the temple	no
	G2250	G5607	G3450	G3326	G5216	G1722		G2411	G3756
ἐξτείνετε	τὰς	χεῖρας	ἐπ'	ἐμέ	ἀλλ'	αὕτη	ὑμῶν		
ye stretched forth	G3588	hands	against	me	but	this	you		
G1614		G5495	G1909	G1691	G235	G3778	G5216		
ἐστὶν	ἡ	ὥρα	καὶ	ἡ	ἐξουσία	τοῦ	σκότους		
is	G3588	hour	and	G3588	the power	G3588	of darkness		
G2076		G5610	G2532		G1849		G4655		

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 6:12 (Darkness): For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

John 12:27 (Parallel theme): Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.

Acts 26:18 (Darkness): To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Colossians 1:13 (Darkness): Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

John 7:45 (Parallel theme): Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him?

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