

# Luke 22:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he promised, and sought opportunity to betray him unto them in the absence of the multitude.

## Analysis

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**And he promised, and sought opportunity to betray him unto them in the absence of the multitude.** Judas promised (ἐξωμολόγησεν, exōmologēsen, 'agreed/consented'), sealing the arrangement. He then sought opportunity (έζήτει εὐκαιρίαν, ezētei eukairan, imperfect tense of continuous action), looking for the right eukaira—a 'good season' or 'opportune time.' The crucial condition: **in the absence of the multitude** (ἄτερ ὄχλου, ater ochlou, 'without a crowd').

This solves the leaders' dilemma from verse 2—how to arrest Jesus without triggering a riot among Passover pilgrims who honored Him. Judas knew Jesus' patterns: prayer at Gethsemane, teaching in temple courts, movements around Jerusalem. He would identify the isolated moment for arrest. The tragic irony: Judas searched for opportunity to destroy while Jesus sought opportunity to save. Where Judas calculated timing for treachery, Christ embraced divine timing for sacrifice: 'Mine hour is come' (John 12:23).

## Historical Context

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Jerusalem swelled from 40,000 residents to over 200,000 during Passover, with pilgrims camping around the city. Roman governors relocated from Caesarea to Jerusalem during festivals anticipating potential messianic uprisings. Any public arrest of a popular figure risked mob violence, complicating Roman-Jewish relations.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does Judas' search for 'opportunity' to betray contrast with how you should seek opportunities to serve Christ?
2. What does the leaders' fear of public reaction reveal about the difference between popular opinion and true authority?
3. In what ways might you be tempted to follow Christ only when it's publicly acceptable, abandoning Him when the 'multitude' isn't watching?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ἐξωμολόγησεν καὶ ἐζήτει εὐκαιρίαν τοῦ παραδοῦναι  
And he promised And sought opportunity to betray

G2532 G1843 G2532 G2212 G2120 G3588 G3860

αὐτοῖς αὐτοῖς ἄτερ ὅχλου  
him him in the absence of the multitude

G846 G846 G817 G3793