

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

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 (ἐζήτει 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

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

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

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

καὶ	ἐξωμολόγησεν	καὶ	ἐζήτει	εὐκαιρίαν	τοῦ	παραδοῦναι
And	he promised	And	sought	opportunity	G3588	to betray
G2532	G1843	G2532	G2212	G2120		G3860
αὐτοῖς	αὐτοῖς	ἄτερ	ὄχλου			
him	him	in the absence	of the multitude			
G846	G846	G817	G3793			

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org