

Mark 14:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After two days was the feast of the passover, and of unleavened bread: and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him by craft, and put him to death.

Analysis

After two days was the feast of the passover—Mark's precise temporal marker situates us on Wednesday of Passion Week, with Passover beginning Friday evening. The Greek *meta duo hēmeras* (μετὰ δύο ἡμέρας) creates dramatic irony: while Israel prepared to commemorate deliverance from Egypt, the ultimate Passover Lamb was about to be sacrificed.

The chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him by craft (ἐζήτουν πῶς αὐτὸν ἐν δόλῳ κρατήσαντες)—*Dolos* means "treachery" or "deceit," revealing the leaders' calculated duplicity. Their caution stemmed from fear of the crowds (v. 2), who viewed Jesus favorably. The verb *ezētoun* (imperfect tense) suggests ongoing, deliberate plotting—not spontaneous hostility but premeditated murder of the one they knew performed undeniable signs (John 11:47-48). Judas' betrayal (vv. 10-11) would provide the "craft" they needed.

Historical Context

Mark wrote during the 60s AD to a Roman audience, explaining Jewish customs throughout his Gospel. Passover celebrated Israel's exodus from Egypt (Exodus 12), when lamb's blood on doorposts saved firstborn sons. The Sanhedrin's

conspiracy during this feast ironically fulfilled typology: Jesus, the true Passover Lamb, would die at the very hour lambs were slaughtered in the temple.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the leaders' "craft" and "treachery" contrast with Jesus' open teaching in the temple (14:49)?
2. What does it mean for Jesus to be both the Passover Lamb and the Son who escaped death's angel?

Interlinear Text

Ἦν δὲ τὸ πάσχα καὶ τὰ ἄζυμα μετὰ
was After G3588 the feast of the passover and G3588 unleavened bread of
G2258 G1161 G3957 G2532 G106 G3326

δύο ἡμέρας καὶ ἐζήτουν οἱ ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ οἱ
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G1417 G2250 G2532 G2212 G749 G2532

γραμματεῖς πῶς αὐτὸν ἐν δόλῳ κρατήσαντες
the scribes how him by craft they might take
G1122 G4459 G846 G1722 G1388 G2902

ἀποκτείνωσιν·
and put him to death
G615

Additional Cross-References

John 13:1 (Parallel theme): Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

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