

Mark 14:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he sendeth forth two of his disciples, and saith unto them, Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him.

Analysis

He sendeth forth two of his disciples—Luke 22:8 identifies them as Peter and John. Sending two fulfills the principle of paired witnesses (Deuteronomy 19:15). **There shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water** (ἄνθρωπος κεράμιον ὄδατος βαστάζων, anthrōpos keramion hydatos bastazōn)—this sign was remarkable because water-carrying was women's work. A man carrying water would be conspicuous and unmistakable.

Jesus's detailed foreknowledge demonstrates divine omniscience—He knew precisely what the disciples would encounter. This miraculous knowledge parallels His prophecy of finding the colt (Mark 11:2-6) and shows sovereign control over circumstances. Some scholars suggest Jesus prearranged this meeting; others see supernatural foreknowledge. Either way, Jesus orchestrates events for Passover preparation. The cryptic sign may have protected the location from Judas, who wasn't privy to these instructions, ensuring uninterrupted final meal with His disciples.

Historical Context

In first-century Palestine, women typically carried water jars on their heads while men carried wineskins. A man carrying a water pitcher (κεράμιον, keramion—ceramic jar) would immediately stand out. This unusual sign ensured the disciples found the right person. Jerusalem was crowded with Passover pilgrims (possibly

200,000+), making a specific meeting place essential. The "city" (πόλιν) was Jerusalem. Jesus likely had sympathetic supporters in Jerusalem who provided the upper room, though the Gospels don't name them. Secrecy was necessary because Judas and temple authorities were plotting arrest.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's detailed foreknowledge of future events strengthen confidence in His sovereignty over your circumstances?
2. What does Jesus's careful preparation for the Passover meal teach about intentionality in observing the Lord's Supper?
3. How might Jesus's cryptic instructions to protect the upper room location illustrate wisdom in spiritual warfare?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἀποστέλλει δύο τῶν μαθητῶν αὐτῷ καὶ λέγει
And he sendeth forth two G3588 disciples him And saith
G2532 G649 G1417 G3101 G846 G2532 G3004

αὐτῷ Ὑπάγετε εἰς τὴν πόλιν καὶ ἀπαντήσει ὑμῖν
him Go ye into G3588 the city And there shall meet you
G846 G5217 G1519 G4172 G2532 G528 G5213

ἄνθρωπος κεράμιον ὕδατος βαστάζων· ἀκολουθήσατε
a man a pitcher of water bearing follow
G444 G2765 G5204 G941 G190

αὐτῷ
him
G846

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