

Mark 14:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in the evening he cometh with the twelve.

Analysis

In the evening he cometh with the twelve (όψιας γενομένης ἔρχεται μετὰ τῶν δώδεκα, opsias genomenēs erchetai meta tōn dōdeka)—"evening" (όψιας) refers to Thursday evening after sunset, beginning Nisan 15 by Jewish reckoning (days start at sunset). Jesus arrived with the full complement of twelve disciples—including Judas Iscariot, whose presence adds tragic irony. This would be their final gathering as "the twelve" before Judas's betrayal and suicide.

Mark's simple statement conceals profound significance: Jesus's last Passover, institution of the Lord's Supper, revelation of the betrayer, prophetic warnings about desertion and denial. The number "twelve" symbolizes Israel's twelve tribes—Jesus reconstitutes Israel around Himself. Yet within hours, the twelve would scatter (v. 50), and Judas would betray. The evening's intimacy contrasts with the night's horror—from upper room fellowship to Gethsemane agony to courtroom trials. Jesus entered this evening knowing full well what lay ahead.

Historical Context

Passover meals began after sunset, marking the new day (Nisan 15) by Jewish reckoning. The meal followed prescribed liturgy: four cups of wine, recounting the exodus story, eating lamb with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. During this Passover, Jesus transformed the ancient ritual, investing bread and wine with new meaning—His body and blood. The meal lasted several hours, including Jesus washing disciples' feet (John 13), predicting betrayal, and teaching extensively

(John 14-16). After the meal, they sang the Hallel (Psalms 115-118) and departed to the Mount of Olives.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What significance does Jesus's deliberate gathering of "the twelve" have for understanding His mission to restore Israel?
2. How does Jesus's knowledge of the impending betrayal yet sharing intimate fellowship with Judas demonstrate His love and grace?
3. How should the Lord's Supper's institution at Passover shape your understanding of communion as the New Covenant meal?

Interlinear Text

Kαὶ	όψιας	γενομένης	ἔρχεται	μετὰ	τῶν	δώδεκα
And	the evening	in	he cometh	with	G3588	the twelve
G2532	G3798	G1096	G2064	G3326		G1427

Additional Cross-References

Luke 22:14 (Parallel theme): And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him.