

Mark 14:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? and another said, Is it I?

Analysis

They began to be sorrowful (ἥρξαντο λυπεῖσθαι, ērxanto lypeisthai)—grief seized the disciples at Jesus's announcement. The ingressive aorist ("began") marks onset of sorrow. **To say unto him one by one, Is it I?** (λέγειν αὐτῷ εἰς καθ' εἷς· Μήτι ἔγω; legein autō heis kath heis· Mēti egō?)—each disciple individually questioned whether he might be the betrayer. The particle μήτι (mēti) expects a negative answer: "Surely not I?"

The disciples' self-doubt reveals conscience sensitivity—none presumed innocence. Each recognized potential for betrayal within his own heart. This contrasts with false confidence (Peter's boast in v. 29). Their repeated questioning ("one by one") shows genuine distress. Matthew 26:25 records Judas also asking, though his question used different grammar. The disciples' sorrow and self-examination models proper response to sin's revelation—not blaming others but searching one's own heart. Their question "Is it I?" should echo in every believer's heart: am I capable of betraying Christ?

Historical Context

The disciples' individual questioning stretched the moment, building tension. None could believe Jesus's announcement, yet His solemn "Verily" formula demanded they take it seriously. Their sorrow (λυπεῖσθαι) shows emotional anguish—this wasn't academic discussion but devastating revelation. The question "Is it I?" appears in all three Synoptic Gospels, indicating how this moment seared itself

into apostolic memory. Early church tradition records that disciples other than Judas never discovered with certainty who the betrayer was until Judas led the arrest party to Gethsemane.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the disciples' self-doubt ("Is it I?") model healthy spiritual vigilance against presumption of immunity to serious sin?
2. What does their individual questioning rather than accusing others teach about personal responsibility for examining our own hearts?
3. How should Jesus's prediction of betrayal by a disciple warn against complacency in Christian community?

Interlinear Text

οὕτοις	δέ	ἤρξαντο	λυπεῖσθαι	καὶ	λέγειν	αὐτῷ	εἰς	καθ'
G3588	And	they began	to be sorrowful	and	say	unto him	G1520	G2596
G1161		G756	G3076	G2532	G3004	G846		
εἶπεν	μήτι	ἐγώ	καὶ	ἄλλος,	μήτι	ἐγώ		
G1520	said	Is it I	and	another	said	Is it I		
G3385		G1473	G2532	G243	G3385	G1473		

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