

Mark 14:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as soon as he was come, he goeth straightway to him, and saith, Master, master; and kissed him.

Analysis

And as soon as he was come, he goeth straightway to him—Judas wastes no time, moving εὐθύς (euthys, "immediately") to execute betrayal. **And saith, Master, master; and kissed him** (ῥαββί, rhabbi...κατεφίλησεν, katephilēsen)—the doubled address and intensive verb (κατα-φιλέω, "kiss repeatedly, kiss tenderly") suggest either feigned affection or Judas's inner conflict. The intensive form implies extended kissing, perhaps overcompensating for guilty conscience.

This moment crystallizes hypocrisy's nature: religious words ("Rabbi, Rabbi") combined with betrayal's deed. Judas speaks truth (Jesus is indeed Teacher) while doing evil (handing Him to death). Jesus receives the kiss without resistance, allowing Himself to be identified for arrest. Silent in this verse, Christ's response awaits fuller revelation—in Luke 22:48 He asks, "Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?" The question exposes the gesture's horror while offering final opportunity for repentance.

Historical Context

The title "Rabbi" (literally "my great one") reflected rabbinic authority in first-century Judaism. Judas's use of it—the same title Peter used in confession (Mark 9:5)—shows how identical words can mask opposite hearts. Ancient readers would recognize the kiss's cultural weight, making Judas's act even more shocking than modern readers might grasp.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does Judas's fervent greeting ("Master, master") combined with betrayal teach about the danger of religious language divorced from obedient love?
2. How does Jesus' willing reception of the betrayal-kiss demonstrate the voluntary nature of His atoning sacrifice?
3. In what areas might you be "kissing Jesus" with religious words or activities while betraying Him through secret sin or disobedience?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐλθὼν	εὐθὺς	προσελθὼν	αὐτόν·	λέγει
And	as soon as he was come	straightway	he goeth	him	and saith
G2532	G2064	G2112	G4334	G846	G3004
Ῥαββί	Ῥαββί	καὶ	κατεφίλησεν	αὐτόν·	
Master	Master	And	kissed	him	
G4461	G4461	G2532	G2705	G846	

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