

Mark 14:46

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they laid their hands on him, and took him.

Analysis

And they laid their hands on him, and took him. The stark brevity captures the moment's horror—hands that should worship now arrest. The verb κρατέω (krateō, "took") means to seize with force, to overpower. Yet John 18:6 records that when Jesus identified Himself, the crowd fell backward, demonstrating that this arrest succeeded only because Christ permitted it. Isaiah 53:7's prophecy finds fulfillment: "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth."

This verse marks the transfer of power—or rather, the illusion thereof. Human hands grasp the Son of God, thinking they control events, unaware they fulfill divine decree (Acts 2:23). The passive construction "was taken" in God's sovereign plan becomes active human guilt. Every hand that touched Jesus in arrest bore responsibility, yet every act served redemption's purpose. Mystery of divine sovereignty and human responsibility converge in this moment.

Historical Context

Roman law allowed both Jewish and Roman authorities to make arrests. The mixed crowd (John 18:3 mentions Roman soldiers and Jewish officers) suggests coordination between Pilate and the Sanhedrin. Ancient arrest procedures involved physical restraint, often harsh. That Jesus submitted without resistance would have surprised first-century readers familiar with revolutionary messianic movements that violently resisted Rome.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the ease of Jesus' arrest (after crowds fell backward in John 18:6) prove the voluntary nature of His sacrifice?
2. What does this verse teach about human responsibility for sinful actions that nevertheless fulfill God's sovereign plan?
3. In what ways do people still try to "seize" and control Jesus rather than submitting to His lordship?

Interlinear Text

οἱ	δὲ	ἐπέβαλον	ἐπ'	αὐτὸν	τὰς	χεῖρας	αὐτὸν	καὶ
G3588	And	they laid	on	him	G3588	hands	him	and
	G1161	G1911	G1909	G846		G5495	G846	G2532
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ἐκράτησαν	αὐτὸν							
took	him							
G2902	G846							

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