

Mark 3:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him.

Analysis

The Pharisees' response: 'they went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him.' Rather than repenting, they plotted murder. 'Straightway' (εὐθύς) indicates immediate action. 'Took counsel' (συμβούλιον) describes formal conspiracy. Pharisees allied with Herodians—strange bedfellows united by opposition to Christ. The goal: 'destroy him' (ἀπολέσωσιν)—kill, not merely discredit. This occurs early (chapter 3), showing opposition was immediate and lethal.

Historical Context

Herodians were political supporters of Herod's dynasty under Roman authority. Their alliance with Pharisees was unusual—these groups normally opposed each other. This demonstrates Jesus' threat to both establishments. Plotting death on Sabbath compounds irony—they violate Sabbath's purpose while condemning Jesus. This conspiracy succeeds at crucifixion (Mark 15:1-15).

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does the murderous response to evidence reveal about human rebellion?
2. How do unlikely alliances against truth today mirror this conspiracy?
3. What does this teach about persecution and gospel ministry?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐξελθόντες οἱ Φαρισαῖοι εὐθὺς μετὰ τῶν
And **went forth** G2532 G1831 G3588 **the Pharisees** G5330 **and straightway** G2112 **with** G3326 G3588

Ἡρωδιανῶν συμβούλιον ἐποίουν κατ' αὐτὸν ὅπως
the Herodians G2265 **counsel** G4824 **took** G4160 **against** G2596 **him** G846 **how** G3704

αὐτὸν ἀπολέσωσιν
him G846 **they might destroy** G622

Additional Cross-References

Mark 12:13 (Resurrection): And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in his words.

Matthew 22:16 (Parallel theme): And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men.

Matthew 12:14 (Resurrection): Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.

Mark 8:15 (Resurrection): And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod.

