

Matthew 17:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men:

Analysis

And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them (Συστρεφομένων δὲ αὐτῶν ἐν τῇ Γαλιλαίᾳ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς)—The genitive absolute συστρεφομένων ('while gathering together, while assembling') indicates the disciples regathering after their missionary journey or after the Transfiguration. Galilee was Jesus's primary ministry base, yet He repeatedly predicted His departure. **The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men** (Μέλλει ὁ νιὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου παραδίδοσθαι εἰς χεῖρας ἀνθρώπων)—the future μέλλει ('is about to') shows imminence. The verb παραδίδωμι (paradidōmi, 'to hand over, to betray, to deliver up') is used of Judas's betrayal but also the Father's sovereign purpose (Romans 8:32).

The wordplay νιὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου...εἰς χεῖρας ἀνθρώπων ('Son of Man into hands of men') emphasizes the incarnation's tragedy: the perfect Man betrayed by sinful mankind. Yet this 'betrayal' fulfills divine plan—God's sovereignty and human wickedness converge at the cross (Acts 2:23). This is Jesus's second explicit passion prediction (first: 16:21), showing He repeatedly prepared disciples for what they couldn't comprehend.

Historical Context

This occurred after the Transfiguration (17:1-13) and healing of the demon-possessed boy (17:14-21), probably autumn AD 29. Jesus's ministry was now clearly moving toward Jerusalem and crucifixion. The verb παραδίδωμι carries

overtones of legal handing over, anticipating the trials before Sanhedrin and Pilate. Despite Jesus's clarity, the disciples consistently failed to grasp the necessity of His death (see v. 23), illustrating how human expectations blind us to God's purposes.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Why did the disciples repeatedly fail to understand Jesus's clear predictions of His death?
2. How does Jesus's voluntary submission to betrayal demonstrate both divine sovereignty and human free will?

Interlinear Text

ἀναστρεφομένων	δὲ	αὐτοῖς	ἐν	τῇ	Γαλιλαίᾳ	εἶπεν
abode	And	unto them	in	G3588	Galilee	said
G390	G1161	G846	G1722		G1056	G2036

αὐτοῖς	ό	Ἰησοῦς	Μέλλει	ό	νιὸς	τοῦ	ἀνθρώπων
unto them	G3588	Jesus	shall be	G3588	The Son	G3588	of man
G846		G2424	G3195		G5207		G444

παραδίδοσθαι	εἰς	χεῖρας	ἀνθρώπων
betrayed	into	the hands	of man
G3860	G1519	G5495	G444

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 16:21 (References Jesus): From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of

the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

Mark 8:31 (Parallel theme): And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Matthew 17:23 (Parallel theme): And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry.

Acts 7:52 (Parallel theme): Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

Luke 24:26 (Parallel theme): Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

Luke 9:22 (Parallel theme): Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day.

Luke 24:46 (Parallel theme): And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

Matthew 16:28 (Parallel theme): Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

Matthew 24:10 (Parallel theme): And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

Matthew 26:46 (Parallel theme): Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.