

# Matthew 20:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them,

## Analysis

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**And Jesus going up to Jerusalem** (ἀναβαίνων εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα)—The verb anabainōn (going up) is geographically accurate, as Jerusalem sits 2,500 feet above sea level, but carries theological weight: this is the final ascent to the cross.

**Took the twelve disciples apart** (παρέλαβεν τοὺς δώδεκα)—Jesus deliberately isolates the Twelve for private revelation, using parelaben (took aside), signaling the gravity of what follows.

This is the third and most detailed passion prediction in Matthew (16:21, 17:22-23, 20:17-19). The private instruction contrasts sharply with the crowds following Him; the disciples needed preparation for the scandal of the cross that would soon obliterate their messianic expectations.

## Historical Context

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This journey occurred during the spring Passover pilgrimage of AD 30, when hundreds of thousands traveled to Jerusalem. Jewish pilgrims sang the Songs of Ascent (Psalms 120-134) as they climbed toward the Temple Mount. Jesus's deliberate march toward Jerusalem fulfills His resolute determination in Luke 9:51 to 'set his face' toward the city where prophets die.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus's intentional isolation of the Twelve for hard truth challenge our tendency to avoid difficult conversations in Christian community?
2. What does the geographical language of 'going up' to Jerusalem reveal about the nature of Christ's mission?
3. How should the disciples' need for repeated passion predictions shape our understanding of spiritual growth and the slow work of comprehension?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ἀναβαίνων ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα παρέλαβεν  
And going up G3588 Jesus to Jerusalem took  
G2532 G305 G2424 G1519 G2414 G3880

τοὺς δώδεκα μαθητὰς κατ' ἵδιαν ἐν τῇ ὁδῷ καὶ  
G3588 the twelve disciples apart G2398 in G3588 the way And  
G1427 G3101 G2596 G1722 G3598 G2532

εἶπεν αὐτοῖς  
said unto them  
G2036 G846

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