

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

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

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

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

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

καὶ	ἀναβαίνων	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	εἰς	Ἱεροσόλυμα	παρέλαβεν		
And G2532	going up G305	G3588	Jesus G2424	to G1519	Jerusalem G2414	took G3880		
τοὺς	δώδεκα	μαθητὰς	κατ'	ἰδίαν	ἐν	τῇ	ὁδῷ	καὶ
G3588	the twelve G1427	disciples G3101	apart G2596	G2398	in G1722	G3588	the way G3598	And G2532
εἶπεν	αὐτοῖς							
said G2036	unto them G846							