

Matthew 21:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he left them, and went out of the city into Bethany; and he lodged there.

Analysis

He left them, and went out of the city into Bethany; and he lodged there—

After confrontation with religious authorities, Jesus withdrew (*ἐξῆλθεν*, *exēlthen*) to Bethany, home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (John 11:1). **He lodged there** (*ηὐλίσθη*, *ēulisthē*) suggests regular nightly retreat from hostile Jerusalem.

Jesus's strategic withdrawal illustrates wisdom: He didn't court martyrdom prematurely but waited for the Father's appointed hour (John 7:6). Bethany ('house of affliction' or 'house of figs') became His refuge, foreshadowing the next morning's fig tree encounter (v.18-19). Even the Son of God needed fellowship and rest among friends.

Historical Context

Bethany lay about two miles east of Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives' eastern slope—beyond the Sabbath day's journey but close enough for daily teaching. Pilgrims typically camped outside Jerusalem during Passover due to overcrowding. Jesus's Bethany retreats fulfilled this custom while avoiding arrest before God's timing.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Where is your 'Bethany'—the place of retreat and trusted fellowship when ministry becomes intense?
2. How does Jesus's pattern of engagement and withdrawal inform your own rhythms of work and rest?

Interlinear Text

καὶ καταλιπὼν αὐτοὺς ἐξῆλθεν ἔξω τῆς πόλεως εἰς

And **he left** **them** **and went** **out of** **the city** **into**

G2532 G2641 G846 G1831 G1854 G3588 G4172 G1519

Βηθανίαν καὶ ηὐλίσθη ἐκεῖ

Bethany **And** **he lodged** **there**

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Additional Cross-References

John 11:18 (Parallel theme): Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off:

Mark 11:11 (Parallel theme): And Jesus entered into Jerusalem, and into the temple: and when he had looked round about upon all things, and now the eventide was come, he went out unto Bethany with the twelve.

John 11:1 (Parallel theme): Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

Luke 24:50 (Parallel theme): And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

Mark 11:19 (Parallel theme): And when even was come, he went out of the city.

Matthew 16:4 (Parallel theme): A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

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