

Matthew 26:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests,

Analysis

Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests—

The devastating phrase heis ton dodeka (εἷς τῶν δώδεκα), 'one of the twelve,' emphasizes Judas's betrayal from within Jesus's inner circle. 'Iscariot' likely means 'man of Kerioth,' identifying him as the only non-Galilean apostle. He enjoyed Christ's intimate fellowship, heard His teaching, witnessed His miracles—yet sold Him for silver.

The word eporeuthe (ἐπορεύθη) means 'he went'—Judas actively sought out the chief priests, taking initiative in betrayal. This wasn't circumstantial weakness but calculated treachery. His response to Mary's worship was to commodify Christ: if she won't sell the ointment, he'll sell the Master.

Historical Context

Judas's betrayal likely occurred on Wednesday evening after the Bethany anointing. Matthew's 'Then' (Greek tote, τότε) suggests the anointing triggered his decision. Perhaps watching 300 denarii 'wasted' on Jesus while he embezzled the ministry funds (John 12:6) crystallized his greed and disillusionment.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Judas's betrayal from within 'the twelve' warn against presuming that proximity to Jesus guarantees genuine conversion?
2. What does Judas's contrast with Mary teach about the difference between religious profession and heartfelt devotion?

Interlinear Text

Τότε πορευθεὶς εἷς τῶν δώδεκα ὁ λεγόμενος Ἰούδας

Then **went** **one** **of the twelve** **called** **Judas**
G5119 G4198 G1520 G3588 G1427 G3004 G2455

Ἰσκαριώτης πρὸς τοὺς ἀρχιερεῖς

Iscariot **unto** **the chief priests**
G2469 G4314 G3588 G749

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 10:4 (Parallel theme): Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

Acts 1:16 (Parallel theme): Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

Matthew 26:47 (Parallel theme): And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people.

Matthew 27:3 (Parallel theme): Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

John 13:2 (Parallel theme): And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;

John 13:30 (Parallel theme): He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night.

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