

Matthew 26:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

Analysis

And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him—The Greek *ezetei eukairian* (ἐζήτει εὐκαιρίαν) means 'he kept seeking a favorable occasion.' The imperfect tense indicates continuous action—Judas was constantly watching for the right moment. *Eukairia* (εὐκαιρία) means 'good opportunity' or 'opportune time,' revealing calculated betrayal, not impulsive sin.

The word *paradoi* (παραδοῖ), 'to betray/hand over,' appears throughout this chapter, linking Judas's act to God's sovereign plan (v. 2). What Judas intends for evil, God ordains for redemption. Satan entered Judas (Luke 22:3), yet Judas remains culpable—divine sovereignty and human responsibility coexist in Scripture's mystery. The betrayer becomes God's unwitting instrument accomplishing salvation.

Historical Context

Judas's 'opportunity' came Thursday night when Jesus retreated to Gethsemane with the eleven. Away from the crowds the Sanhedrin feared (v. 5), Judas could lead the temple guard to arrest Jesus without public riot. God's sovereignty overruled the leaders' plan to avoid the feast—Jesus died as the Passover Lamb.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereignty work through human sin without violating human responsibility or excusing evil choices?
2. What 'opportunities' might you be seeking that betray Christ—pursuing your agenda while maintaining religious appearance?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἀπὸ	τότε	ἐζήτει	εὐκαιρίαν	ἵνα	αὐτὸν	παραδῶ
And	from	that time	he sought	opportunity	to	him	betray
G2532	G575	G5119	G2212	G2120	G2443	G846	G3860

Additional Cross-References

Mark 14:11 (Parallel theme): And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him.