

Matthew 26:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples.

Analysis

My time is at hand (ὁ καιρός μου ἐγγύς ἔστιν, ho kairos mou engys estin)—Jesus uses kairos (appointed time) not chronos (clock time). This is the divinely ordained hour for redemption, not mere calendar progression. His sovereign knowledge contrasts with the disciples' ignorance of what would unfold.

Such a man (τὸν δεῖνα, ton deina)—This indefinite reference may protect the host's identity from Judas, preventing premature arrest. Jesus's supernatural knowledge of the unnamed man's availability demonstrates His divine foreknowledge. The phrase **I will keep the passover at thy house** shows Jesus claiming the host's hospitality with messianic authority—the Master's word is sufficient.

Historical Context

Upper rooms were typically the largest space in Jerusalem homes, used for important gatherings. Wealthy homeowners would loan their upper rooms to pilgrims for Passover meals. The 'man bearing a pitcher of water' (Mark 14:13) was Jesus's cryptic sign, as water-carrying was typically women's work—a man doing it would stand out.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's reference to His 'appointed time' demonstrate His sovereign control even in betrayal?
2. What does Jesus's protection of the meal location teach about wisdom in spiritual warfare?

Interlinear Text

ο	δὲ	εἴπατε	Ὑπάγετε	εἰς	τὴν	πόλιν	πρὸς	τὸν
G3588	And	he said	Go	into	G3588	the city	at	G3588
G1161		G2036	G5217	G1519		G4172	G4314	
δεῖνα	καὶ	εἴπατε	αὐτῷ	Ο	διδάσκαλος	λέγει	Ο	
such a man	and	he said	unto him	G3588	The Master	saith	G3588	
G1170	G2532	G2036	G846		G1320	G3004		
καιρός	μου	ἐγγύς	ἐστιν	πρὸς	σὲ	ποιῶ	τὸ	
time	My	at hand	is	at	thy house	I will keep	G3588	
G2540	G3450	G1451	G2076	G4314	G4571	G4160		
πάσχα	μετὰ	τῶν	μαθητῶν	μου				
the passover	with	G3588	disciples	My				
G3957	G3326		G3101	G3450				

Additional Cross-References

John 7:6 (Parallel theme): Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready.

John 17:1 (Parallel theme): These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

John 13:1 (Parallel theme): Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

John 7:30 (Parallel theme): Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come.

John 7:8 (Parallel theme): Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast; for my time is not yet full come.

John 12:23 (Parallel theme): And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.

Luke 22:53 (Parallel theme): When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

Mark 5:35 (Parallel theme): While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further?

Matthew 26:2 (Parallel theme): Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.

Matthew 21:3 (Parallel theme): And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them.