

Matthew 26:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

Analysis

One of you shall betray me (εἷς ἐξ ὑμῶν παραδώσει με, heis ex hymōn paradōsei me)—The verb paradidōmi means 'hand over, deliver up,' the same word used for God delivering up Christ (Romans 8:32). Jesus's announcement shatters the Passover's joyful atmosphere. His verily (ἀμήν, amēn) adds solemn certainty to this shocking revelation.

This betrayal comes during yachad (fellowship), fulfilling Psalm 41:9: **mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me** (quoted in John 13:18). The intimacy of shared bread makes betrayal more heinous—covenant fellowship violated from within.

Historical Context

Betrayal during a shared meal was considered the ultimate violation of sacred hospitality in ancient Near Eastern culture. Eating together created a covenant bond of mutual protection and loyalty. Judas's willingness to betray Jesus immediately after sharing the Passover meal would have shocked contemporary Jewish sensibilities profoundly.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's foreknowledge of betrayal without preventing Judas's participation demonstrate divine sovereignty and human responsibility?
2. What does Christ's willingness to serve and eat with His betrayer teach about loving our enemies?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐσθιόντων	αὐτῶν	εἶπεν	Ἀμὴν	λέγω	ὕμῖν	ὅτι	εἷς
And	as they did eat	G846	he said	Verily	I say	unto you	that	one
G2532	G2068		G2036	G281	G3004	G5213	G3754	G1520
ἐξ	ὑμῶν	παραδώσει	με					
of	you	shall betray	me					
G1537	G5216	G3860	G3165					

Additional Cross-References

John 13:21 (Parallel theme): When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

Revelation 2:23 (Parallel theme): And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

Hebrews 4:13 (Parallel theme): Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.