

# Matthew 26:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?

## Analysis

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**Exceeding sorrowful** (λυπούμενοι σφόδρα, lypoumenoi sphodra)—The disciples experience deep grief (lypeō) intensified by sphodra (greatly, vehemently). Each one's question—**Lord, is it I?** (Μήτι ἐγώ εἰμι, κύριε; Mēti egō eimi, kyrie?)—uses a negative particle expecting 'no' but expressing genuine self-doubt: 'Surely not I?'

Their individual questioning reveals healthy self-examination rather than pointing fingers at others. None were confident in their own integrity apart from Christ's affirmation. This humility contrasts with Peter's later self-assurance (v. 33). As Jeremiah warns: **The heart is deceitful above all things... who can know it?** (Jeremiah 17:9).

## Historical Context

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During the Passover seder, participants would discuss the meaning of Exodus deliverance and their own spiritual condition. The disciples' self-examination fits this pattern of introspection. Their questioning each separately suggests they went around the table systematically, each voicing the dreaded possibility.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. When confronted with sin in the community, do you first examine your own heart or assume it's others?
2. What does the disciples' uncertainty about their own loyalty teach about self-knowledge apart from Christ?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ λυπούμενοι σφόδρα ἥρξαντο λέγειν αὐτῶν,  
**And** **sorrowful** **they were exceeding** **and began** **to say** **of them**  
G2532 G3076 G4970 G756 G3004 G846

ἔκαστος αὐτῶν, Μήτι ἐγώ εἰμι κύριε  
**every one** **of them** **is it** **I** **G1510** **Lord**  
G1538 G846 G3385 G1473 G2962

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 22:23** (Parallel theme): And they began to enquire among themselves, which of them it was that should do this thing.