

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

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

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

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

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

καὶ	λυπούμενοι	σφόδρα	ἤρξαντο	λέγειν	αὐτῶν,
And	sorrowful	they were exceeding	and began	to say	of them
G2532	G3076	G4970	G756	G3004	G846
ἕκαστος	αὐτῶν,	Μήτι	ἐγώ	εἰμι	κύριε
every one	of them	is it	I	Lord	
G1538	G846	G3385	G1473	G1510 G2962	

Additional Cross-References

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

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