

Matthew 26:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me.

Analysis

He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish (ὁ ἐμβάψας μετ' ἐμοῦ τὴν χεῖρα ἐν τῷ τρυβλίῳ, *ho embapsas met' emou tēn cheira en tō trybliō*)—During Passover, diners would dip bitter herbs or bread into charoset (a mixture symbolizing the mortar of Egyptian slavery). This shared dipping emphasized intimate fellowship—making betrayal more treacherous.

Jesus doesn't publicly expose Judas but gives a sign recognizable to John (John 13:26) while leaving others uncertain. This restraint shows mercy, giving Judas final opportunity to repent. The imagery echoes Psalm 41:9 and intensifies the covenant violation—Judas breaks fellowship at the very moment of sharing sacred food.

Historical Context

The 'dish' (τρυβλίον, *tryblion*) was a common bowl for dipping. In first-century meals, sharing food from a common dish signified unity and mutual trust. The Passover seder included multiple dippings: bitter herbs in salt water (tears of slavery) and in charoset. Jesus's statement likely occurred during one of these ritual moments.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's merciful restraint in exposing Judas challenge your response to those who wrong you?
2. What does the intimacy of shared meals teach about the severity of church divisions and betrayals?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	ἀποκριθεὶς	εἶπεν	Ὁ	ἐμβάψας	μετ'	ἐμοῦ	ἐν
G3588	And	he answered	and said	G3588	He that dippeth	with	me	in
	G1161	G611	G2036		G1686	G3326	G1700	G1722
τῷ	τρυβλίῳ	τὴν	χεῖρα	οὗτός	με	παραδώσει		
G3588	the dish	G3588	his hand	the same	me	shall betray		
	G5165		G5495	G3778	G3165	G3860		

Additional Cross-References

John 13:18 (Parallel theme): I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.

Psalms 41:9 (Parallel theme): Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.

Luke 22:21 (Parallel theme): But, behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on the table.