

Matthew 26:46

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.

Analysis

Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me (ἐγείρεσθε, ἄγωμεν· ἰδοὺ ἤγγικεν ὁ παραδιδούς με)—The imperative ἐγείρω ('rise, wake up') commands action. The hortatory subjunctive ἄγωμεν ('let us go') shows Jesus initiating movement—He doesn't flee or hide but advances toward His betrayer. The perfect ἤγγικεν ('has drawn near') shows Judas's arrival. The participle ὁ παραδιδούς ('the one betraying') identifies Judas by his treacherous act. Jesus's calm, authoritative response contrasts with disciples' confusion—He alone maintains composure because He alone fully trusts the Father's plan.

The command 'let us be going' shows Jesus meeting suffering head-on, not passively awaiting it. He orchestrated the arrest's location (Judas knew the place, 26:47) and now walks toward His captors. This voluntary submission fulfills His earlier teaching: 'No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord' (John 10:18). Christ's sovereignty over His suffering makes His sacrifice truly voluntary, thus truly expiatory. Compelled victims cannot atone; willing substitutes can.

Historical Context

The transition from prayer to action marks the end of Jesus's preparation. He prayed until fully resolved, then moved decisively toward the cross. The command 'let us go' toward the betrayer reverses human instinct (flee danger). This demonstrates Jesus's control—He wasn't victim of circumstances but sovereign

over His passion. Ancient readers would recognize the irony: typically one flees approaching enemies; Jesus walks toward His. This fulfills Isaiah 50:6-7—the Servant sets His face like flint toward suffering.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's active movement toward His betrayer challenge passive resignation to inevitable suffering?
2. What does Christ's voluntary submission teach about the nature of His atonement—victim or willing substitute?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------|-----------------|--------|---------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| ἐγείρεσθε | ἄγωμεν· | ἰδοὺ, | ἤγγικεν | ὁ | παραδιδούς | με |
| Rise | let us be going | behold | he is at hand | G3588 | that doth betray | me |
| G1453 | G71 | G2400 | G1448 | | G3860 | G3165 |

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