

Matthew 26:50

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come?

Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him.

Analysis

And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? (ο δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ, Ἐταῖρε, ἐφ' ὃ πάρει)—The address Ἐταῖρε (companion, friend) is used by Jesus only three times (20:13; 22:12; 26:50), each time addressing someone engaged in wrong. It's formal, not intimate—perhaps 'comrade' or 'acquaintance' better captures the tone. The phrase ἐφ' ὃ πάρει is elliptical, meaning 'for which you are here' or 'why you came'—either statement or question. Jesus forces Judas to confront his purpose. This isn't ignorance seeking information but omniscience demanding acknowledgment.

Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him (τότε προσελθόντες ἐπέβαλον τὰς χεῖρας ἐπὶ τὸν Ἰησοῦν καὶ ἐκράτησαν αὐτόν)—Immediately after Judas's kiss, they seized (κρατέω, krateō) Jesus. The verb ἐπιβάλλω τὰς χεῖρας ('to lay hands on') suggests forceful arrest. Yet John 18:6 shows they first fell backward when Jesus identified Himself—He could have escaped but voluntarily submitted. His arrest was simultaneously violent seizure and willing surrender.

Historical Context

Jesus's question to Judas gave him opportunity for repentance—even then, Christ offered mercy. Judas's silence (no recorded response) shows hardened treachery. The immediate arrest after the kiss fulfilled Judas's signal. Roman and temple authorities acted together—unusual cooperation between occupiers and occupied, united against Christ. This fulfilled Psalm 2:2: 'The kings of the earth set

themselves...against the Lord and against His Anointed.' The arrest initiated the Passion—illegal night trial, false witnesses, crucifixion.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's 'Friend, why are you here?' challenge you to examine the purpose behind your religious activities?
2. What does Jesus's voluntary submission despite having power to escape teach about the nature of His sacrifice?

Interlinear Text

ό	δὲ	Ἰησοῦν	εἶπεν	αὐτόν	Ἐταῖρε	ἐπὶ	ῷ	πάρει
G3588	And	Jesus	said	him	Friend	on	art thou	come
G1161	G2424	G2036	G846	G2083	G1909	G3739	G3918	

τότε	προσελθόντες	ἐπέβαλον	τὰς	χεῖρας	ἐπὶ	τὸν	Ἰησοῦν
Then	came they	and laid	G3588	hands	on	G3588	Jesus
G5119	G4334	G1911	G5495	G1909	G2424		

καὶ	ἐκράτησαν	αὐτόν
and	took	him
G2532	G2902	G846

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 20:13 (Parallel theme): But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny?

Matthew 22:12 (Parallel theme): And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

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 22:48 (References Jesus): But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?

2 Samuel 16:17 (Parallel theme): And Absalom said to Hushai, Is this thy kindness to thy friend? why wentest thou not with thy friend?