

Matthew 26:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper,

Analysis

Now when Jesus was in Bethany—Bethany means 'house of affliction' or 'house of dates,' located about two miles east of Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives' eastern slope. This was Jesus's base during Passion Week, home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (John 11:1)—the family Jesus loved.

In the house of Simon the leper—Simon had likely been healed by Jesus, hence hosting this meal. The Greek lepros (λεπρός) designated various skin diseases that rendered one ceremonially unclean (Leviticus 13-14). That Jesus dines in a former leper's home demonstrates His radical acceptance of the marginalized and His power to cleanse the unclean.

Historical Context

This anointing occurs on Wednesday evening of Passion Week (John 12:1-8 places it six days before Passover). Mark 14:3-9 provides a parallel account. The location in Bethany, outside Jerusalem's tumult, offered Jesus refuge during His final week before crucifixion.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's choice to fellowship with a former leper demonstrate the radical inclusiveness of His kingdom?
2. What does Jesus's pattern of ministry in Bethany reveal about the importance of intimate friendship and refuge during spiritual warfare?

Interlinear Text

Toῦ δὲ Ἰησοῦ γενομένου ἐν Βηθανίᾳ ἐν οἰκίᾳ
G3588 Now when Jesus was in Bethany in the house
G1161 G2424 G1096 G1722 G963 G1722 G3614

Σίμωνος τοῦ λεπροῦ
of Simon G3588 the leper
G4613 G3015

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 21:17 (Parallel theme): And he left them, and went out of the city into Bethany; and he lodged there.

Mark 11:12 (Parallel theme): And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry: