

Matthew 26:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste?

Analysis

When his disciples saw it, they had indignation—The Greek *aganakteo* (ἀγανακτέω) means 'greatly displeased' or 'moved with indignation.' John 12:4-5 identifies Judas Iscariot as the primary objector, though Matthew's plural suggests others joined his protest. Their outrage masks spiritual blindness—they fail to grasp the infinite worth of Christ.

To what purpose is this waste?—The word *apoleia* (ἀπώλεια) means 'destruction' or 'loss,' the same word used for eternal perdition. Tragically ironic: they call worship of Christ 'waste' while Judas wastes himself through betrayal for thirty pieces of silver. What seems wasteful to carnal minds is precious to God.

Historical Context

The disciples' economic objection reflects their continued expectation of an earthly messianic kingdom where resources would fund social programs. They still don't understand that Jesus came to die, not to establish political reform. Their pragmatism reveals misplaced values.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. When have you considered extravagant devotion to Christ as 'wasteful' compared to more 'practical' uses of resources?
2. How does Judas's protest reveal that orthodox religious language can mask a heart devoid of genuine love for Jesus?

Interlinear Text

ἰδόντες	δὲ	οἱ	μαθηταὶ	αὐτοῦ	ἠγανάκτησαν	λέγοντες
saw	But	G3588	disciples	when his	it they had indignation	saying
G1492	G1161		G3101	G846	G23	G3004
Εἰς	τί	ἢ	ἀπώλεια	αὕτη		
To	what purpose	G3588	waste	is this		
G1519	G5101		G684	G3778		

Additional Cross-References

Mark 14:4 (Parallel theme): And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made?

Exodus 5:17 (Parallel theme): But he said, Ye are idle, ye are idle: therefore ye say, Let us go and do sacrifice to the LORD.