

8.19.18 ~ John 13:18-30, Jesus Reveals the Betrayer

Last Week Review, see **John 13:12-17...** Jesus provides an example of humble service for the Twelve. Jesus the Lord and Savior, washed the feet of His disciples [foot washing was the menial work of a slave]; if God in the flesh was willing to do this humble service to His disciples, should they not also be willing to serve others, with this same attitude?

Jesus even washed the feet of His betrayer, Judas Iscariot, the most infamous traitor of all time. It is interesting to note, that whenever any of the gospel writers mention Judas, they always identify him as the one who betrayed Jesus (Matthew 10:4; 26:25, 48; 27:3; Mark 3:19; 14:44; Luke 6:16; John 6:71; 12:4; 18:2).

It is indeed perplexing that Judas (or anyone) could spend three years with the Lord and not believe in Him. How could that be? Perhaps Judas, like many of the Jews, expected Jesus to free them from Roman rule and restore the national sovereignty of Israel.

The Twelve were closer to Jesus than anybody, so they probably assumed that they would become recipients of wealth and power, when Jesus ushered in His kingdom.

Scripture seems to reference a tipping point for Judas, just a few days before the Last Supper, when Jesus and the Twelve were in Bethany at a dinner in Jesus' honor, when Mary poured some very expensive perfume over Jesus, to which Judas reacted indignantly (**John 12:5**), *"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor people?"* John tells us (**12:6**), *"[Judas] said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it."*

According to Matthew's narrative, right after the incident with the expensive perfume (**Matthew 26:14-16**), *"Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, 'What are you willing to give me to betray Him [Jesus] to you?' And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him. From then on he began looking for a good opportunity to betray Jesus."*

Read John 13:18-19... Jesus had chosen all twelve of the disciples, even Judas, who would betray Him. Jesus was fully aware of Judas' rebellious heart, in fact, Jesus chose Judas for this task, because his heart was hard toward Him (**John 13:11**), *"For He [Jesus] knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, 'Not all of you are clean [saved, belonging to Him].'"*

Judas had many opportunities to trust fully in the Lord, to believe in Him, for Judas had witnessed many of Jesus' miracles and heard Him teach against the love of money (Matthew 6:19-34), greed (Luke 16:13), pride (Matthew 23:1-12).

Jesus' declared to the twelve (**John 6:70**), *"Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?"* Jesus chose Judas, so that the Scripture might be fulfilled (**Psalms 41:9**), *"my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me," [i.e., he kicked Me when I was down].*

In **Luke 22:22**, Jesus says, *"the Son of Man is going as it has been determined [i.e., He will be rejected and crucified]; but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!"* God did not make Judas commit his act of betrayal, God simply used Judas' own unbelieving and wicked heart, to carry out the righteous plan of God, just as God used evil men to crucify His Son (see **Acts 2:22-24**).

Joseph, the 11th son of Jacob [Israel], was favored by his father and therefore despised by his brothers, who threw him into a dry well, telling their father he had been killed by a wild animal; the brothers then sold him to a traveling caravan going to Egypt, to get rid of him.

Through God's providence, Joseph became 2nd in command under Pharaoh, during a time of great drought; long story short, God used what happened to Joseph to save his family and the whole nation of Israel. When speaking to his brothers in Egypt, Joseph said to them (**Genesis 50:20**), *"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive."*

Read John 13:19-21... Jesus is telling His disciples that Judas is going to betray Him, and He is going to be taken from them; He tells them now so that when it happens they will know that Jesus is God's Son, He divinely knows what will happen in the future.

Jesus is reassuring the apostles that He is going to send them out as His agents in this world, and neither Judas' betrayal or even His own death will change that.

Immediately Jesus becomes troubled in His spirit, no doubt, thinking about: Judas' treachery and ultimate condemnation in hell, about the cross on which He will bear our sin, about the reality of being separated from the Father, as God's wrath is poured out on Him.

Read John 13:22-25... The disciples look around at one another, trying to figure out who Jesus is talking about, who would dare betray the Lord? Which one of them could do such a thing? The Synoptics (Matthew, Mark, Luke) tell us the disciples were grieved and they begin to say to Jesus, "surely Lord, it isn't me."

They all want to know who the betrayer is, but it is Peter who finally acts, he gets John's attention, since John is sitting up against Jesus at the table; and Peter asks John to find out who the betrayer is that Jesus is talking about, and so, John asks Him, "Lord, who is it?"

Read John 13:26-30... From the context, it seems that Jesus quietly told John, "the one whom I give the morsel [dipped bread], is the betrayer." The unleavened bread would have been dipped into a mixture of bitter herbs, vinegar, salt, water, along with crushed dates, figs, and raisins, into which the bread would be dipped.

Note: For a host, in this case Jesus, to single out anyone at the table by offering them drink or food from His own hand, was a special honor.

Even at this hour in the Passion Week, Jesus is still showing kindness and love toward Judas, His betrayer.

It would seem that John didn't have time to tell Peter who the betrayer was, for Jesus immediately dipped the bread and gave it to Judas. As soon as Judas took the bread (**verse 27**), "Satan then entered into him."

Please turn with me to **Luke 22:1-6...** This occurs a few days before the Lord's Supper, and is the first time the gospels mention Satan entering Judas [gaining direct control over, possessing]; the second time is in **John 13:27**, when Judas received the bread from Jesus.

Jesus had washed Judas' feet, and was sitting close to Him, when Jesus made a special gesture offering the bread dipped in sauce; after which, it would seem Judas' heart was hardened and there was no turning back, for He had crossed the line and was willfully going to do the Devil's bidding for him; so Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."

You need to remember that John wrote this account some 50 years after Christ's death and resurrection, in **verses 28-29**, John is looking back, giving an account of what the disciples thought at the time. They, no doubt, talked about it later, even though, at the time they didn't know what was meant by Jesus saying, "What you do, do quickly." Perhaps Judas, as the money keeper, was going out to get something else for the dinner, or to give money to the poor (which would traditionally happen at Passover; just like we do at Thanksgiving).

Verse 30 tells us that after receiving the dipped bread, Judas went out quickly, and it was night, for darkness had come to Jerusalem, in fact, darkness had come to Judas' heart, and darkness would soon come to the whole earth, when Jesus is crucified (it became as night, from noon to 3 pm, on the day Jesus died).

Judas will forever be aligned with the words deceiver, betrayer, and traitor. The next time we see Judas in the narrative, will be in the Garden of Gethsemane, early in the morning, when Judas leads a mob of armed men to capture Jesus; and Jesus says to him, "Friend, do what you have come to do."

Jesus will forever be aligned with the words grace, mercy, and loving-kindness, for Jesus gave His betrayer endless opportunities to repent and believe in Him.

God's Word tells us Jesus continues today to offer forgiveness and eternal life to anyone who will confess their sins to Him, believing He is the Savior (Acts 2:21; Romans 10:13; Acts 4:12; John 14:6).