

John 13

Intro:

Gospel context end of Jesus earthly ministry turning from his ministry to the world to his disciples. “He came to His own and His own people did not receive Him, but to all who received Him, He gave the right

Keep your eyes and ears open for 2 main themes in our passage tonight.

Read the text:

1) We live in a world of **Betrayal**

Go with me back to verse 2: *“During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him...”*

Context: verse 11

Jesus washes the disciples feet and he says to them that “You (pl) are clean but not every one of you.’ For He knew who was to betray Him; that is why He said, ‘Not all of you are clean.’” Jesus has knowledge of His betrayal.

Next we see in verse 21 that Jesus predicts His betrayal, “‘Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.’”²² The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke.” They look around wondering who it is. So Peter motions to John to ask Jesus. Jesus tells him that it is the one who will give the morsel to once He dips it. verse 26-27 *“So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.”*²⁷ *Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, ‘What you are going to do, do quickly.’”* Jesus predicts his betrayal and He gives permission to Satan to betray Him.

Here we see that the enemy loves to sow discord where God is at work.

If Jesus faced betrayal as the sinless Son of God, won’t we too face

betrayal as His people? We live in a fallen world with fallen people. We all face betrayal.

Maybe you have been betrayed by your spouse, or family, or boss, or coworker, or brother or sister in Christ, or maybe even your church has betrayed you, maybe even this church? Maybe you have betrayed someone? Your wife, or your children, or your family? Maybe you’ve betrayed yourself. Paul tells us that we’ve all betrayed God, “For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” Paul tells us later in Romans that we were enemies of God. (5:10).

So how do we deal with betrayal?

1) Keep our minds focused on God

“Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of the world to the Father...” (v. 1) He knew “that He was going back to God” (v. 3).

Later in this discourse Jesus says, “I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father” (16:28).

Jesus keeps his eyes fixed on the Father despite the betrayal that is taking place. Even though He is aware of it He fixes his attention on the Father not on His betrayal.

2) Pray

- a) Jesus prays in chapter 17 right before His betrayal takes place, “Father glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you.”
- b) submit it to the Lord
- c) Pray for the situation:
 - a. Jesus prays for his disciples who are about to undergo serious trials and a temptation to turn away from the Lord. “Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given Me, that they may be one even as we are One. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them and not one of them has been lost except the son of

destruction, that the Scriptures might be fulfilled” (17:11-12).

- b. He prays for the Father’s sovereign hand of protection over His people.

3) Address it

Jesus addressed Judas even though He knew what he was about to do. “One of you will betray me” (13:21) and when he gives Satan permission to enter Judas, ‘What you are going to do, do quickly” (v. 27). He addresses the situation. Yes He has sovereign control over the situation, which we don’t have, but He gives us a paradigm to follow. Confront in grace and truth.

4) Admit where we were wrong

Jesus didn’t have to do this, but in our relationships we do contribute something sinful to the equation. Maybe it is pride that keeps you blinded from seeing your own sinfulness and fallenness, but in every conflict you are currently in the middle of today, you play a significant part in the problem. Elsewhere Jesus told His disciples in the midst of conflict, “*Judge not that you be not judged [by God]*” (Matt. 7:1). Now this verse is highly miss-used and abused but what He is calling for to do is to put aside our pharisaical self-righteousness and to realize that we ourselves are people with sin. Do not judge from a hypocritical point of view that sees yourself as above reproach.

*“Judge not, that you be not judged. ² For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. ³ Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? ⁵ **You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.**”*

I remember when I was in high school and college I often prejudged people based on their appearances and the group that they associated themselves with. In high school I remember the jocks or the group that was obsessed with sports. They weren’t the intellectual type like I was and they seemed not to be as serious about following the Lord as I was.

5) Forgive and stay focused on the purposes of God

Jesus stayed focused on the purpose of God.

Biblical forgiveness is not simply dismissal. We don’t sweep things under the rug, we admit the sin that has taken place. Yet we also recognize that we too are sinners before God in need of His grace.

If you are the victim of physical, sexual, spiritual abuse, this does not mean that you allow untrustworthy people to continue walking all over you. If you had a friend who every time they borrowed your car got drunk and wrecked it and continued to do this over 5 times. It would not be wise to give them your car keys again. You can forgive them, but that does not mean you give them the keys back. Forgiveness is not the same as trust. We forgive, but hold people accountable for their actions.

Ultimately if you’ve gone through these steps and there is still no reconciliation you may have to simply pray on a daily basis that the Lord helps you to let go and forgive this person.

Satan is always at work to encourage betrayal.

This brings us to our next point:

2) **We are in a Spiritual Battle**

Look with me at verse 2-3, “*During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper.*”

On the surface level this looks like another simple Passover with Jesus and His disciples. Yet under the surface there is a battle raging between the devil to destroy Jesus and between the Son to accomplish the work of His Father. Satan has his heart set on destroying Jesus. Jesus has His sights set on His Father's glory.

Throughout the Gospel there is a theme of spiritual battle between the Light and the darkness.

John 1:5
"In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

8:12
"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

12:46
"I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness."

What is the nature of the spiritual battle where in? The battle is between the kingdom of darkness in the kingdom of light. It is between the kingdom of this world and the kingdom of god. Every time the kingdom of God advances another stronghold of evil is taken over for good.

Ever since I graduated Phoenix Seminary in May I have been going out with some friends witnessing at a mosque here in phoenix.

Get We don't wage this warfare with physical weapons we wage war with spiritual weapons with the Gospel, with prayer, and with the truth of God's word. The enemy doesn't want us to pray, speak the truth, Gospel, because this is the way the kingdom of darkness is destroyed. The Bible will keep you from sin and sin will keep you from the Bible.

Trans: We all face a spiritual battle today, but how do we find victory

over the evil one? We must keep our eyes focused on the truth of God as Jesus did.

3) Even amidst the Spiritual Battle God is in control.

Look again with me at verse 3, "*Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands.*" The Father and the Son are at Work here as it is the Father who gives authority to the Son. What had the Father placed under the authority of Jesus? "All things!"

Earlier in this Gospel John said, "*All things were made through Jesus, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.*" This means that He is the Creator, He is over everything because He created everything.

Paul declares the beauty and glory of Jesus, "*For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and **in him all things hold together***" (Col. 1:16-17). This means that nothing is outside of the sovereign control of God.

Later in John 17 Jesus prays saying, "*Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him*" (vv. 1-2). Notice the purpose clause explains the authority given to the Son. "you have given him *authority over all flesh to give eternal life to all whom You have given Me*" (v. 2). **What has been given to Jesus? The ability to give eternal life to the ones whom have been chosen by the Father and given to the Son.**

Whom is given eternal life? Specifically, the ones whom the Father has placed in the hands of Jesus. **Power has been granted over all flesh (or people, or humankind) "to give eternal life to all whom you have given me" (v. 2). The Father has a people and He places them in the hands of the Son, and these are the ones that Jesus has supremacy "to give eternal life to."**

Notice how here in the High priestly prayer, Jesus keeps referring to His people as “those whom you [the Father] have given me.” We see this again in verse 6, *“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.”* And in verse 9, *“I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.”* ¹⁰ *All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.”* Again in verse 24, *“²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.”*

What has the Father placed into the hands of Jesus? The Salvation of His people. **The Salvation of the people of God is in the hands of Jesus**

You may think no this can't be true! We have to come to God on our own volition. It is our will that must bring us to the Father. But let's look at John 10 where Jesus talks about giving His sheep eternal life and we will see this idea of Jesus giving salvation to His people further expounded upon. Turn with me quickly now to John 10:24-30 and notice that there are two types of people here (1) those who are not among his sheep and (2) those who are His sheep:

“So the Jews gathered around him and to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” ²⁵ Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep.”

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

²⁸ I give them [my sheep] eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them [my sheep] out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them [my sheep] to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them [my sheep] out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.”

Those who do not believe do not do so because they are not among Jesus'

sheep. In order to even believe we have to be among the sheep of God. Notice that the Father gives the sheep for the Son to save v. 29, “My Father who has given my sheep to me is greater than all” and the Son bestows eternal life to His sheep, “I give my sheep eternal life.” The Father and Son have one singular purpose in salvation: to save the elect sheep of God.

Lets go back and re-read the last part of this passage but replace the pronouns “they” with “my sheep” and it should make this point jump out even further:

“²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know my sheep, and my sheep follow me. ²⁸ I give my sheep eternal life, and my sheep will never perish, and no one will snatch my sheep out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given my sheep to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch my sheep out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.”

Even amidst evil we can rest knowing that God is in control and He has a purpose for every seemingly mindless act of evil. He has his chosen people in His hands and everything happens for His glory and in turn the good of His people (Rom. 8:28).

What is the greatest injustice that has ever taken place? It was the death of the only sinless person to ever live, Jesus. The murder of Jesus was the climax of all evil that has ever taken place. It was more vile and evil than the genocide of Rwanda or the suffering of Zimbabwe, the instability in our country South Africa, or the millions killed under communism in Russia. Yet an amazing truth lies in the pages of Scripture, God is in control. What people intend for evil God intends for His good purpose.

Illustration: walking with Jeremy/ getting him in the car. He doesn't know the danger that lies in the parking lot and he doesn't know the joy that lies at the other end of the car ride. Last night we took him to a movie. Like a child, We don't see past the pain of the constraints of this world to the joy that lies at the other end.

John Calvin said, “For who is so devoid of intellect as not to understand

that God... lips with us as nurses are wont to do with little children?" (Institutes 1.13.1)

In Acts after Jesus has died and been raised from the dead, the Apostles continue on with the Mission of preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom. Peter preached a sermon to the Jews in Jerusalem about the Sovereign control of God over the evil of the crucifixion:

"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men." (Acts 2:22-23). The disciple's prayer reveals that even as all the forces of power in this world were raised up against Jesus and put Him to death ultimately they did *"delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God."* Even in the midst of the greatest evil of the crucifixion Jesus was in control.

The Father has given "all things into His hands" (v. 3). As Jesus said earlier in this Gospel, "I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father" (10:18). Jesus is in control over His own death.

Isn't there Great comfort in the fact that God holds all things in his loving hands? We must always view God's sovereign control through the lens of his love. Whenever you are tempted to think that if God is in control He must be evil, then you do not truly understand the nature of God's goodness, grace and lovingkindness. The bible clearly reveals that God is loving, holy, righteous, and good. We are in no place to stand in judgement over God and say that what He has allowed to take place is ultimately going to turn out for evil. Although people have committed evil acts and must be held accountable for them, God will always turn evil around for a redemptive purpose. It happened in the cross and there is coming a day when we will see everything that has ever taken place turned around for the ultimate redemption of the people of God. The New

Heavens and New Earth are coming!

If you are bogged down by the evil of the world today, know that there is coming a day when every believer will rise from the dead and all evil will finally be judged. That will be a day of great redemption for the people of God.

4) Jesus is our victory over the battle

v. 1b

"having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end"

His whole ministry up to this point has been one of loving protection over His sheep. As the crowds abandoned Jesus, He stooped down and taught these 12 men. As the Jews picked up stones to stone Him, He remained the good Shepherd of His Sheep. He even declared to those religious leaders who sought to murder Him, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep" (10:10-11).

To what extent did he love them? "He loved them to the end"! This word here for "end" is the Greek word *τέλος* meaning "end" or "completion." The BDAG, Greek dictionary, explains that this word can mean: **"the goal toward which a movement is being directed, end, goal, outcome"** or, **"the last part of a process, close, conclusion, to the end, finally."** This is the goal toward which Jesus love for His disciples finds its completion, the cross. Jesus love is not an empty love that simply is spoken, it is an active love that finds its fulfillment in the ultimate act of love. We see this word *telos* found again in its verbal form as Jesus is hanging upon the cursed tree. In the final moment of Jesus' life he cries out this same word *τετέλεσται* "It is finished." How much did Jesus love His disciples? **He loved them to the end. He loved them to the cross. He loved them to the point of hanging on the cross in their place.** JESUS LOVED YOU TO THE CROSS!

When he stooped down to wash Jesus symbolically uses the foot washing

to point to His atoning death.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?"⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand."⁸ Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me."

This is how Jesus fights the battle by humbling Himself to the position of the lowest of low servants. He is the creator God, yet he stoops down to become a mere creature and to take on the most shameful position of the lowest of servants.

This would be like the Queen of England coming to America and laying aside her royal robes and becoming a Walmart (Pep) employee and taking the position of cleaning dirty toilets and pushing carts out in the hot sun. This would be outrageous and disgraceful! Yet isn't it even more outrageous and disgraceful that Jesus became a man than that the Queen would put on a Walmart (Pep) uniform? Isn't it more disgraceful that God was nailed to a tree because of our sin and evil deeds than that the Queen would scrub our toilets? Yet this is how God the Son became victorious over the Spiritual Battle. He took on the shame, guilt, and wrath that our sins deserved and he took our place.

Because as Jesus said to Peter, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with Me." **If Jesus does not bleed and die for you, then you have no part in His Kingdom (v. 8).** Or put positively: **since Jesus has bled and died for you, you eternally have a place secured for you in the Kingdom of God.**

But this place in the Kingdom is not simply granted to you because Jesus died on the cross. No, you must trust in the finished work of Jesus on Your behalf. You must repent, turn away from your sin and trust in Jesus.

"The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does

not know where he is going.³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." 12: 35-36

This does not mean you have to first clean your life up then come to Jesus, no you simply come to Jesus with all the mess and junk of your life and give it to Him. Allow Him to take it and nail it to the cross because that is where it belongs. **There are only two options for how sin and rebellion is to be dealt with either it must be destroyed in the cross or else it will be destroyed in hell.** If you do not trust in Jesus, your sins will remain upon Your own soul rather than upon the loving sacrifice of Jesus.

If you know Jesus embrace him and share his goodness with someone who doesn't know him this week.

If you don't know Jesus trust in Him. Turn from living for yourself and begin to follow Jesus. If you have questions about following Jesus today you can come and talk to me or one of the staff members here tonight.

Pray out.