

John 13:21–30

21When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.”

22Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke.

23Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

24Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke.

25Then, leaning back on Jesus’ breast, he said to Him, “Lord, who is it?”

26Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it.” And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.

27Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly.”

28But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him.

29For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, “Buy those things we need for the feast,” or that he should give something to the poor.

30Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.

“Betrayal”

John 13:21-30

Have you ever been betrayed? Being betrayed hurts. However, the betrayal we experience is nothing compared to the situation the Lord Jesus faced with Judas. Still, having been through our experiences, we cannot approach this text without identifying a little with what John wrote in **verse 21**. ***“When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, ‘Verily, Verily, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.’”*** We will look at this paragraph in two parts.

I. The Traitor Revealed (v. 21-30)

II. The Lessons We Should Draw From This

I. The Traitor Revealed (v. 21-30)

A. The last time we were here, Jesus said He chose Judas that the Scriptures would be fulfilled. The fact that this was prophesied does not make the betrayal any easier. In verse 21, we discover Jesus is troubled in mind and heart about what He is about to reveal to His faithful disciples.

1. The phrase “troubled in spirit” does not speak of a passing tremor in our Lord and Savior’s usually quiet inner life. He is more than a little distressed by these circumstances. Betrayal hurts deeply. This is the beginning of the events of the passion He must face.

2. While the Apostle John desired that we understand Jesus is God, the Son incarnate in human flesh, he did not want us to forget that Jesus was also human. Even God the Son, when he was rejected and betrayed by a close associate, was deeply distressed by it.

3. Although this did cause a deep reaction in our Lord, we must not read into this verse the idea this betrayal somehow took Him by surprise. No, remember this was always part of God’s eternal plan. The Old Testament recorded this event. Let me repeat the reference Jesus Himself referred to in verse 18. ***Psalm 41:9 “Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.”*** So, this was not a sudden revelation to Jesus.

B. “The disciples began looking at one another, at a loss to know of which one He was speaking. (verse 22) Not only did this news affect Jesus, it also perplexed the disciples. They literally had no clue to whom He was referring. ***Matthew 26:22*** added detail to our picture. ***“And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, ‘Lord, is it I?’”*** It appears quite a discussion erupted at this point because no one suspected Judas!

1. This text is very alarming. This meant Judas, who had spent his last three years learning and living among the disciples of the Lord Jesus, was so good at living the “Christian life” that not one of the men with whom he lived suspected he was lost.

2. While it is true Judas was planning to betray the Lord, I am not at all sure that Judas understood that he was lost. He may have assumed since the Lord Jesus had chosen him for membership among the elite twelve, perhaps this meant he had his foot in the door of heaven. We just do not know what Judas thought about his own condition before God.

3. All that Judas had so cleverly arranged in secret, now was broadcast openly before the rest. Perhaps Judas thought Jesus had caught wind of a different plot involving another of the group because when the self-questioning was going on, he himself joined in. In ***Matthew 26:25*** we read ***“Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, ‘Rabbi, is it I?’ He said to him, ‘You have said it.’”***

C. This information was not only communicated to Judas himself, but also to John the Apostle when Peter asked John to ask Jesus who the turncoat was. (v. 23-26) ***“There was reclining on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. So Simon Peter gestured to him, and said to him, ‘Tell us who it is of whom He is speaking.’ He, leaning back thus on Jesus’ bosom, said to Him, ‘“Lord, who is it?’ Jesus then answered, ‘That is the one for whom I shall dip***

the morsel and give it to him.’ So when He had dipped the morsel, He took and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.”

D. What happens next takes place very quickly.

1. First, John allowed us to view inside Judas’ soul by way of a divine editorial comment. ***“After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him, ‘What you do, do quickly.’”*** At the point that he received the sop, Satan himself took control of Judas. Even the revelation of his purposes cannot make Judas change his mind. At this moment he is entirely the tool of Satan! He cannot turn back now.

2. Second, Judas immediately left to put his treachery into motion! ***“Now no one of those reclining at the table knew for what purpose [Jesus] had said this to [Judas]. For some were supposing, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus was saying to him, ‘Buy the things we have need of for the feast’; or else, that he should give something to the poor. So after receiving the morsel he went out immediately; and it was night.” (v. 28-30)*** While some information had been communicated, it had not all been processed, this is why John could truthfully write the words in verse 28. Clearly, they had not overheard the Lord’s response to Judas, and John had not fully processed what Jesus had said and indicated by the giving of the sop. He only understood that Jesus now told Judas to do something quickly and the rest is speculation about what it was that He told him to do.

II. The Lessons We Should Draw From This

A. Having looked at the event, now let us see if we can’t draw from this some lessons we can learn. John’s purpose was to help us see how God’s eternal plan of salvation was right on track. Jesus did not go to the cross to pay the price for our sin as a victim of circumstances beyond His control. Rather, he went to the cross as the great shepherd willingly laying down his life on behalf of his sheep! Jesus chose to die in our place. What a wonderful blessing this is. We must never lose sight of this truth. We must always see it in the way that the disciples stated it in ***Acts 4:27-28*** ***“For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.”*** The situation was never out of God’s control.

B. Judas spent three years with the Lord Jesus and His disciples and they never suspected that Judas was just faking it. When Jesus said someone would betray Him, no one even suspected it was Judas.

1. This makes me ask a question of each of us. Are we really His children or are we just putting on a good facade? The Bible tells us we need to make sure we are saved. Paul in ***2 Corinthians 13:5*** wrote: ***“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?”***

2. What is our test? The book of 1 John helps us out with this. Let me take you on a brief tour of how we can know that we know. The assumption that John begins with is that we have professed faith in Jesus Christ. We confessed that we have put our faith in Him. The question that John sought to discover was whether we possess what we confess.

TEST 1 – Are we honest before God about our sin (1:7-10)

TEST 2 – Do we have a desire to obey Him (2:3-5)

TEST 3 – Do we desire to practice righteousness and avoid sin? **(3:7-10) “Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.**

TEST 4 – Do we love our brothers and sisters in the Lord? **“We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death” (3:14).**

John closed his book with a wonderful verse of encouragement. **1 John 5:13 “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.”**

409 I Know Whom I Have Believed