

“It Was Night”
John 13:18-30

Introduction:

1. Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles:
 - To John 13 - Where:
 - Not Only Did We *See*:
 - Our Lord Jesus Christ:
 - Serve His Disciples!
 - We Also *Heard*:
 - Him Call His Disciples:
 - To Serve Each Other:
 - Even As He Did:
 - When He Washed Their Feet:
 - With His Own Hands!
2. But - There Was Much More:
 - To Be *Done* That Night:
 - And - There Was Much More:
 - For Jesus To *Say*:
 - To His Disciples!
 - Even As They Reclined Around The Dinner Table:
 - Which Held The Special:
 - Jewish Passover Meal:
 - Which Would Be Jesus' Last Supper With Them Before His Death:
 - On The Cross!
3. And - One Of The Things:
 - That Jesus Had To Say:
 - He Had Already Hinted At:
 - In Times Past!
 - But Now - It Was Time:
 - For Him To Declare It Plainly:
 - Even If His Disciples Would Still:
 - Not Fully Understand!
 - That - One Of Them:
 - Would Betray Him!
4. And So - As We Come To:
 - John 13:18 - Let's Read Through:
 - Verse 30 - "I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me. / 19 Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he. / 20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. / 21 When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. / 22 Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake. / 23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. / 24 Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake. / 25 He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it? / 26 Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. / 27 And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly. / 28 Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him. / 29 For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor. / 30 He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night!"
5. And - What A Night:
 - That Night Would Turn Out To Be!
 - But - That Night Started Early:
 - For The Disciple Named Judas Iscariot!
 - Because - The Darkness Of That Night:
 - Had Already Engulfed His Soul!
 - So That *He* Would Be The One:
 - Who Would Fulfill The Prophecy Of Scripture:

- And Betray The Lord Jesus!
 - 6. And - Through The Darkness:
 - Of *That* Night - And:
 - The Darkness Of *His* Night:
 - We Will See This Morning:
 - The Darkness Of Sin - And How:
 - The Light Of Jesus Can Overpower Even The Darkest:
 - Of Nights!
 - Because - Just Before Jesus:
 - Addresses His Faithful Disciples:
 - Which Will Extend From Here Through Chapter 16, We Can See:
 - The Sorrow, The Suspicion, And The Shame That The Darkness Of Sin:
 - Can Bring About!
- * And So - As We Just Read From 13:21 - That Night Was:
 - 1. ***A Dark Night Of Sorrow!***
 - Even For The Lord Jesus Christ Himself!
 - As He Was Moved With Sorrow:
 - Over The Sin & Betrayal:
 - That Was In Their Midst!
 - And - This Is Why:
 - In 13:21 - We Are Told That:
 - “When Jesus Had Thus Said, He Was Troubled In Spirit!”
 - That Is - He Was:
 - Agitated & Moved Within Himself:
 - Because Of The Storm Clouds:
 - That Had Gathered Around Him:
 - To Destroy Him!
 - But - Even Though:
 - He Was Feeling Such Great Sorrow:
 - He Still Wanted To Bring:
 - Encouragement:
 - To Those Disciples:
 - Who Would Represent Him:
 - To This World!
 - Which Is Why In:
 - 13:20 - Jesus Makes Another One Of His:
 - “Verily, Verily” Statements!
 - Which Always Introduced A Compelling Truth:
 - For Us To Hear!
 - And So - For The 19th Time In John:
 - He Says - “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me!”
 - Jesus Wanted His Faithful Disciples:
 - To Know That:
 - No Matter What Would Happen To Him:
 - In That Dark Night!
 - They Would Be:
 - His Representatives & Ambassadors:
 - To This World!
 - And - If The World:
 - Would Receive Them & Their Message:
 - At The Same Time:
 - They Would Receive Him & His Message:
 - From Heaven Itself!
 - And - This Message:
 - Would Have Showed Just How *Close*:
 - The Disciples Were To:
 - Jesus And His Heavenly Father!

- And - What An Encouragement:
 - This Would Be For Them:
 - In Time To Come!
- But - At The Same Time:
 - Jesus Wanted To Prepare His Disciples:
 - For The Reality:
 - They Would Also Face:
 - In Their Service For Him!
 - And This Is Why:
 - Jesus Told Them About An:
- Exception:
 - Of Those Disciples:
 - Who Would Reject Him:
 - In This World!
 - Which Is Why In:
 - 13:18 - Jesus Said:
 - “I Speak Not Of You All!”
 - Not All Of His Disciples:
 - Who Were Around The Table With Him:
 - That Night:
 - Would Experience The Encouraging Truth Of 13:20!
 - And - This Is What Brought:
 - Sorrow Into The Heart Of:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - That - Out Of Those Twelve:
 - One Was Lost:
 - Because Of His Sin & Betrayal:
 - Against The Lord!
- Do You Experience:
 - The Same Kind Of Sorrow:
 - Over The Darkness Of Sin:
 - As The Lord Did?
 - Are You “Troubled In Spirit” When:
 - You See / Hear Sin:
 - Around You - And Even:
 - In You?
 - As Sin Affected Christ:
 - So Sin Should Affect Christians!
 - According To God’s Definitions:
 - Of Sin - And Not The World’s Definition - Or - Our Own!
 - But - Even Though:
 - There Should Be Sorrow Over Sin:
 - In Our Hearts - Even As There Was:
 - In Jesus!
 - We Need Not Despair!
 - Because - Even In The Darkest Night Of Sorrow - Jesus Was Still:
 - In Full Control!
 - And - His Control:
 - Is Seen In His Choice!
 - Even As He Said In 13:18b - “I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me!”
 - Even As Jesus Personally Chose:
 - His 12 Disciples:
 - He Knew Them!
 - Completely & Thoroughly!
 - Inside & Out!
 - And - He Even Knew:
 - That *One* Would Betray Him!
 - He Even Knew:

- *The One Who Would Betray Him! Judas!*
- And Still - He Chose Him:
 - To Follow Him:
 - So That “The Scripture May Be Fulfilled!”
- The Scripture Referred To Is:
 - Psalm 41:9 - Which Expressed How:
 - One Of David’s Closest Friends:
 - Become His Greatest Foes!
 - And - What Was True For David:
 - Would Become True:
 - For Jesus As Well!
- So - Even Though:
 - The Darkness Of Sin In This World:
 - May Bring Deep Sorrow Into Our Hearts:
 - We Can Remain Confident In:
 - The Control & Choice Of The Lord:
 - Through Faith!
- Which Is Why Jesus Added In:
 - 13:19 - “Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he!”
 - All Of The Works Jesus Did - And:
 - All Of The Words Jesus Said:
 - Including Words Of Prophecy:
 - Like This!
 - Ought To Bring Forth:
 - Even Greater Faith:
 - In The Lord!
 - Even When All Seems Dark:
 - Because Of The Sin:
 - Of This World!
- Remember - The Light Of Jesus:
 - Is Able To Overcome:
 - The Darkness Of Sorrow:
 - Because Of Sin!

* But Then - As We Continue In 13:21 - That Night Was Also:

2. ***A Dark Night Of Suspicion!***

- Even Among The Disciples Themselves!
 - As They Were Moved To Suspicion:
 - Over The Sin & Betrayal:
 - That Jesus Would Tell Them Of!
 - Because - The Sorrow Jesus Felt:
 - Moved Him To Make Another Solemn Statement:
 - In Clear & Unmistakable Terms:
 - “Verily, Verily, I Say Unto You, That One Of You Shall Betray Me!”
 - Now - In 13:18 - Its Almost As If:
 - Jesus Spoke In General Terms:
 - That Didn’t Affect The Disciples:
 - All That Greatly!
 - But Here - In 13:21 - Jesus Speaks:
 - Directly & Specifically!
 - Not About Someone:
 - On The Outside!
 - But About Someone:
 - On The Inside!
 - Even - One Of Them:
 - Was Going To Betray Him!
 - And - This Revelation:
 - Caused Great Suspicion:
 - Amongst The Disciples!

- And - In The Passage Before Us:
 - We See First:
- Great Concern About Others!
 - Which Is Why In 13:22 We Are Told:
 - “Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake!”
 - Once Again - Silence Fell Across The Room! And In Utter Shock:
 - All 12 Of The Disciples Start Looking At Each Other:
 - With Eyes Of Perplexity And Suspicion!
 - Which One Of Them:
 - Could It Be? Which One Of Them:
 - Would It Be?
 - Because - By Now:
 - They Had Learned That:
 - Whatever Jesus Said:
 - Was So!
 - So - 13:23 - “Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved!”
 - This Simply Means That This Disciple:
 - Most Likely John:
 - Was Reclining Next To Jesus:
 - On His Right Side!
 - So - He Was Closer To Jesus:
 - Than Peter Was!
 - So - 13:24 - “Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake!”
 - Peter Probably Kept Silent:
 - Because The Sting From Jesus’ Rebuke:
 - Hadn’t Quite Worn Off Yet!
 - But - In Some Way:
 - He Motioned To John:
 - To Get More Information:
 - From Jesus!
 - So - 13:25 - “He then lying on Jesus’ breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it?”
 - Since John Is Close To Jesus Already:
 - All He Had To Do Was:
 - Lean Back In Order To Ask Jesus His Question:
 - Privately - Maybe Even In A Whisper!
 - And So - 13:26 - “Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it!”
 - More Than Likely - Jesus Answered John:
 - In A Way That Only He Would Hear!
 - After All - In 13:28 - “Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him!”
 - And - He Gave John A Sign:
 - That The Man He Would:
 - Give A Morsel Of Food:
 - Dipped In The Sauce Prepared For The Passover:
 - He Would Be The One Who Would Betray Him!
 - And So - 13:26b - “And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon!”
 - Though Jesus Was True:
 - To His Word - His Word:
 - John Suspicions Do Not Seem To Be Relieved:
 - Because He Doesn’t Say Or Do Anything About:
 - What Jesus Just Told Him!
 - But - This Is What The Darkness Of Sin:
 - So Often Does!
 - It Causes Suspicion & Concern:
 - About Others!
 - Just Think About:
 - All The News Out There:
 - About Politicians & Presidents & Even Children Of Presidents!

- All The Indictments & Cover-Ups!

- It Is Sin That:

- Brings All This Kind:

- Of Suspicion!

- And - Great Concern:

- About Others!

- But - In Truth - Sin Ought To Cause Even:

- Greater Concern About Ourselves!

- Though We Are Not Told So Here:

- In Matthew 26:21-25 - We Are Given Another Part Of The Scene:

- “And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. / And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I? / And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. / The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born. / Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said!”

- Not Only Were The Disciples:

- Suspicious About Each Other:

- They Were Even Suspicious:

- About Themselves!

- Which Means That:

- The Words Of Jesus:

- Had Done His Work:

- In Their Hearts!

- They Learned That:

- The Darkness Of Sin:

- Resided Deep Within Each One Of Them - And:

- They Were Even Capable Of The Worst Of Sins - Even To The Point Of Betraying The Lord!

- Again - Matthew 26:22 - “And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?”

- Do You Have The Same Kind Of Suspicion:

- About Yourself?

- That - Apart From The Grace Of God - You Too Are Capable:

- Of The Worst Kinds Of Sins?

- Even The Apostle Paul Considered Himself To Be:

- The Chiefest Of Sinners!

- And Yet - How Many Of Us Are Convinced That:

- We Would Never Stoop As Low As To Betray Jesus!

- And Yet - What Is Sin?

- Sin Is Betrayal!

- Of All The Lord's Goodness & Grace To You!

- In Matthew's Account:

- Jesus' Answer Is More General:

- “He That Dippeth His Hand With Me In The Dish!”

- This Probably Refers To The Dish Of Fruit Sauce That All The Disciples Had Access To!

- This Is Another Way Of Saying What He Said In John - “He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me!”

- But - When John Asked For More Detail:

- Jesus Answered Him:

- “He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it!”

- But - When Judas Asked Jesus:

- In Matthew:

- “Is It I?” - Once Again:

- Jesus Stark Reply:

- Seems To Go Unheard By Everyone Else At The Table!

- How Could This Be?

- It Seems Like:
 - Though John Was Reclining At:
 - The Right Side Of Jesus:
 - Close Enough For Him To Ask His Question Somewhat Privately!
- It Also May Be That:
 - Judas Was Reclining At:
 - The Left Side Of Jesus:
 - And Was Also Close Enough For Him To Ask His Question - Also Somewhat Privately!
- But - We Know From Ancient Sources:
 - That The Left Side:
 - Was The Side Of Honor:
 - When Seated For Dinner!
 - And - For The Host:
 - To Offer One Of His Guests:
 - A Piece Of Food:
 - Was An Act Of Favor!
- And So - Even As The Rest Of The Disciples:
 - Were Expressing Their Suspicions:
 - About Each Other & Even About Themselves:
 - What Was Jesus Doing?
- Jesus Was Once Again:
 - Showing Compassion:
 - To The One Who He Knew:
 - Would Betray Him!
 - Even Judas!
 - The One That The Scriptures Said:
 - Would Lift Up His Heel Against Jesus:
 - Jesus Took Those Heels Into His Own Hands:
 - To Wash!
 - What Grace & Mercy!
 - The Lord Was Giving Judas:
 - Even One More Opportunity:
 - To Repent & To Return To Him!
- Do You Experience:
 - The Same Kind Of Suspicion:
 - Over The Darkness Of Sin:
 - As The Disciples Did?
 - Not So Much:
 - Suspicion About Others - But:
 - Suspicion About:
 - Yourself?
 - We've Been Learning About:
 - The Enemy Of Our Own Flesh:
 - On Sunday Nights - And How:
 - We Cannot & We Must Not:
 - Trust Our Flesh!
 - Instead - We Must Always Rely On:
 - The Grace & Compassion:
 - Of The Lord!
 - And Respond!
 - By Following The Lord!
 - Knowing That:
 - "But For The Grace Of God, There Go I!"
- Because - Only The Light Of Jesus:
 - Is Able To Overcome:
 - The Darkness Of Sorrow & Suspicion:
 - Because Of Sin!

* But Then - As We Come To John 13:27-30 - It Would Become:

3. ***A Dark Night Of Shame!***

- For Judas - As He Rejects:
 - The Grace & Favor Of The Lord:
 - And Finishes The Plan:
 - That He Had Already Set In Motion:
 - In His Heart!
- In 13:27 - Judas Is Exposed:
 - For His Sin & Betrayal!
 - Even As We Are Told:
 - “And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly!”
 - Once Again - We See How:
 - Sin Makes Sinners:
 - Allies With Satan!
 - It Wasn't Satan:
 - That Made Judas Do Any Of This!
 - But - Once Judas Resolved To Betray Jesus:
 - The Devil Came In And Helped Him See It Through!
 - What A Shameful Thing:
 - Sin Is - And:
 - Ought To Be!
 - But - All Too Often:
 - It Isn't!
 - In The World - And Even:
 - In Our Own Hearts!
 - But - When God Graciously:
 - Exposes Our Own Sin & Betrayal:
 - Shame Is A Good & A Right Response!
 - Shame Is One Way That God Uses To Convince Us Of:
 - The Wrong That We Do!
 - And - Shame Can Lead To:
 - A Godly Sorrow!
 - “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of!” (2 Corinthians 7:10)
 - But - Instead Of Responding:
 - To The Shame Of His Sin:
 - In The Right Way:
- In 13:30 - Judas Is Enabled:
 - To Sin Against & Betray:
 - The Lord! Even By:
 - The Devil Himself! So:
 - “He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night!”
 - Instead Of Shame:
 - Judas Was Shameless:
 - Because Sin Had Hardened His Heart:
 - So That He Could Feel No Shame! At Least:
 - Not Yet!
- But - What About You?
 - Do You Experience:
 - Shame Over The Darkness Of Sin:
 - As You Should?
 - When The Lord:
 - In His Grace & Through His Spirit:
 - Convicts You Of Sin & Righteousness & Judgment:
 - How Do You Respond?
 - Is There Shame?
 - Is There Sorrow?
 - If So - Then There Is Hope!

- Because In The Lord:
- There Is Forgiveness!
- Because - At The Same Time:
 - That Jesus Was Exposing:
 - Judas & His Crime:
 - Against Him!
 - Jesus Was Also Exposing:
 - His Own Commitment:
 - To The Cross!
- Again - He Tells Judas:
 - 13:27 - "That thou doest, do quickly!"
 - Because - Jesus Knew That:
 - His Hour Had Come!
 - And He Was Going To See His Work Through:
 - Even As Judas Was Going To:
 - See His Work Through!

Conclusion:

1. And - The Darkness Of That Night:
 - Was Just A Picture Of:
 - The Darkness Of Sin - And:
 - All The Sorrow & Suspicion & Shame:
 - It Brings!
2. And - This Is How:
 - You Should Feel:
 - Toward Sin!
 - The Sin In This World - And:
 - The Sin In Your Heart!
3. But - You Do Not Need To:
 - Experience Defeat Or Despair:
 - Even In The Darkest Of Nights!
 - Because - Even On That Night:
 - Jesus Revealed:
 - His Control!
 - His Compassion! And:
 - His Commitment!
4. So That - When You:
 - Put Your Faith In Him - And:
 - Follow Him - You Can Experience:
 - Forgiveness From Him:
 - Even From The Darkest Of Sins!
5. Never Forget:
 - The Light Of Jesus:
 - Is Able To Overcome:
 - The Darkness Of Sorrow & Suspicion & Shame:
 - Of Your Sin!
 - Of All Sin!

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