



Walking With the Savior

Through An Eyewitness Account of John

John, one of the sons of Zebedee, stood as an eyewitness to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. He began his journey as a fisherman, leaving behind his nets and the future he had planned for himself to follow a teacher, a prophet, and a miracle worker. At the outset, John did not fully understand who Jesus was or what lay ahead. In faith, he aligned himself with Jesus, drawn by His words and deeds. As John walked alongside Jesus, witnessing His teachings and miracles, he gradually realized that Jesus was far more than a prophet or a remarkable teacher. John came to understand that Jesus was God in the flesh. This revelation was not just a turning point for John personally, but a moment of eternal significance. By choosing to follow Jesus, John's future was forever changed, and his decision would go on to impact the world—not only in his own time but throughout every generation to come. ***Let's embark on an inspiring journey with John as we walk alongside Jesus.***

Background Matters

13:18–19. Jesus had just said that blessedness comes through obedience (v. 17). Now He added that there would be no blessedness for one of the disciples. His selection of Judas was not an accident or a failure in God's plan. Jesus chose a betrayer among His 12 disciples (cf. 6:70–71) in order **to fulfill the Scripture**, namely, Psalm 41:9. As David was betrayed by his trusted table companion Ahithophel, who then hanged himself (2 Sam. 16:20–17:3, 23), so Judas, Jesus' close companion, betrayed Him and then hanged himself.

Though Judas' deed was foreknown by God, he was fully culpable. The fact that Jesus knew all this in advance (**before it happens**) and that it fit the Scriptures helped the disciples after the fact to **believe** God sent Jesus (John 13:19; cf. 14:29).

13:20. As Jesus has a high and holy dignity because of His commission from the Father, so the disciples represented Jesus. **Anyone** who accepted the disciples was thus accepting Jesus, the **One** they represented, and in turn that person was also accepting the Father.



13:21. **Jesus was troubled in spirit**. The word "troubled" is *etarachthē* ("stirred or agitated"), the same word used of Jesus in 11:33; 12:27 (also used by Jesus in 14:1, 27). Being human, Jesus was troubled over Judas' soon betrayal of His love and friendship. Being divine, Jesus knew in advance that it would happen. Jesus sensed the spiritual hardness and deadness which sin had produced in Judas. The word **testified** and the formula **I tell you the truth** stress the solemn announcement of Jesus' words.

13:22. That anyone in this close fellowship could do this to Jesus was almost beyond comprehension.

Judas had covered his tracks so well that none of the others suspected him.

13:23–24. **Simon Peter**, the leader and perhaps the most emotional disciple, wanted to deal with the traitor. Luke (22:38, 49–50) mentioned that the disciples had two swords! **The disciple whom Jesus loved** was evidently John, the author of this Gospel (cf. *Introduction*). John and Judas were **reclining next to** Jesus, but Peter's position at the table was not near enough to ask Jesus privately. So he **motioned to** John and asked him to **ask** Jesus whom He meant.

13:25–27. By **leaning** John could touch **Jesus**, so **he asked … Lord, who is it?** Giving the morsel **to Judas** was an uncaught sign of recognition to John, but it was also the Lord's final extension of grace to **Judas**. A host's giving a morsel **of bread** to a guest was a sign of friendship. How ironic that Jesus' act of friendship to Judas signaled Judas' betrayal of friendship.

Satan entered into him (cf. v. 2) is one of the most terrible expressions in the Scriptures. Satan now used Judas as his tool to accomplish his will. **Do quickly** is literally "do it more quickly," which may imply Jesus' words spurred Judas to act in God's proper timing.

13:28–30. Since **no one** grasped the significance of Jesus' words, even the beloved disciple must have missed the intent of the sop until later. As **Judas … went out**, no one thought anything but good of him. They assumed that he, as the group's treasurer (cf. 12:6), was going **to buy** food **for the** Passover **feast or to give something to the poor**. He had deceived his peers but not Jesus. **And it was night** in any other Gospel might simply be a time notice, but in John's Gospel it probably also has symbolic significance. Judas was leaving the Light (8:12; 12:35, 46) and going out into the darkness of sin (3:19).[1]

This Week in "Walking With the Savior,

"We see Satan entering into Judas" is one of the most terrible expressions in the Scriptures. Satan used Judas as an instrument to accomplish his will. "Do quickly" literally means "do it more quickly." When Judas went out, no one suspected him of wrongdoing. The other disciples assumed that, as the group's treasurer, he was going to buy food for

[1] Edwin A. Blum, "John," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 320–22.



the Passover feast or give something to the poor. He had deceived his fellow disciples, but not Jesus.

Motives, Friendship, and Betrayal

Although the other disciples did not recognize evil in Judas at the time, they later came to realize the depth of his depravity. His betrayal serves as a sobering reminder that evil motives, when allowed to take root, can destroy relationships.

Study Guide 42

This study guide presents daily assignments that are specifically crafted to enhance your growth in the Word. Embrace each moment to meditate and reflect, and watch as your spiritual maturity flourishes through your dedicated efforts.

Motives, Friendship, and Betrayal

Jesus Foretells His Betrayal

John 13:18–30

Topics:
Acceptance, Affections, Character, Choices, Evil, Fellowship, Friendship, Hardheartedness, Hypocrisy, Jesus Christ, Life-style, Love, Motives, Relationships, Satan

Open It, Mondays. Open your heart and mind to the truth of the Word.

Have you ever been betrayed or let down by a friend?
If so, compare the way you felt and acted to what Jesus felt and did about Judas (13:18–30; Luke 22:47–48) [47] And while He was still speaking, behold, a multitude; and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus to kiss Him. [48] But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"
And Peter (John 13:37–38; 21:15–19; Luke 22:31–32). [31] And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. [32] But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."



1. **What might Jesus have done to these two men if He had been bitter about either man? Answer please.**

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Explore It, Tuesdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

2. What did Jesus say about the person who shared His bread? (13:18)

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3. Why did Jesus tell His disciples He would be betrayed? (13:19)

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4. What did Jesus say about His disciples? (13:20)

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5. *Why was Jesus troubled? (13:21)

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6. How did Jesus' disciples respond when He said one of them would betray Him? (13:22)

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7. What did Peter do? (13:23–24)

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8. *How did Jesus answer the beloved disciple's question? (13:26)

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Push on Wednesdays; keep the rhythm of personal study moving.



9. What happened to Judas when he took the bread? (13:27)

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10. What did Jesus say to Judas? (13:27)

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11. *What did the other disciples think Jesus was telling Judas to do? (13:28–29)

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12. What did Judas do? (13:30)

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13. Why is it hard to maintain an intimate and growing relationship with another person?

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14. *How would it feel to be betrayed by a close friend?

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15. Whom do you know who has been hurt by betrayal?

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_____

16. *What can you do to build trust in all your friendships?

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_____

Get It Thursdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

17. How do we betray Jesus with our words or by our life-style?

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_____



18. Why and how are we tempted to betray Jesus?

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    _____

19. What are the consequences of betraying Jesus?

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    _____

Drive it Home, Fridays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

20. What behavior that betrays your relationship with Jesus will you ask God to help you change?

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    _____

21. *What is the first step you can take toward building trust in one personal relationship this week?

    _____
    _____

A Journey Through The Gospel of John 2026

Download your study guide at: **Unlockingthetruth.us**