

## **Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ Jesus Identifies and Expels the Betrayer**

Last time...During the Passover meal to end the 12 disciples competing for position and power in a kingdom they did not understand, Jesus taught by example the meaning of “the greatest in the kingdom of God” by humbling Himself to become the lowest household servant and washing the feet of His 12 disciples

In so doing, Jesus gives us an example of serving/loving others

And Jesus taught that cleanliness is of the heart

1 was not clean – Judas Iscariot

11 were clean but needed to daily wash themselves with the water of the Word

We who are believers, children of God, have clean hearts but we have dirty feet, if we are faithful to our Lord Who commanded us to be His witnesses in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation among whom we shine as lights in the world

Then we re-gather for a washing by the water of the Word in preparation for another journey as children of light into the filthy world

This time...Jesus identifies and expels Judas Iscariot, the betrayer

We will be in all 4 Gospels...Mark 14, Matt 26, Luke 22, and John 13

### **Mark 14:18-21**

v18 as they sat and did eat:

We are still in a large upper room with Jesus and His 12 disciples for what has become known as “the Last Supper”

The eastern custom was not to sit in chairs around a dining room table as is depicted by famous western (European ala Leonardo DaVinci) artists... but to recline on pillows or a couch (3 or 4 persons per)

This custom was generally ascribed to the Persians and adopted by the Greeks and the Romans.

Eating was “commune-style” – no separate place settings, only common bowls and eating with the hands.

Therefore, eating a meal together was an act of communion... sharing, holding in common, the participants becoming “one with each other.”

The Passover meal commemorates the deliverance of the Jews from bondage in Egypt (Ex 12)

- one lamb per household
- blood applied to the doorposts
- the angel of death would pass over and not slay the firstborn son
- kill, roast and eat the lamb, with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, in haste, for deliverance will come suddenly

Each family member would take some of the herbs, dip them in salt water and eat them...the bitterness to remind the Jews of their tears while in bondage

ALL of which pointed forward to THIS Passover when Christ, the Father's Sin Sacrifice, our Passover Lamb (of God) will be sacrificed for us

As they sat and ate, Jesus makes an announcement...one He has made before. He has foretold this betrayal 3 times already (Matt 17:22, 20:18, 26:2)

Verily I say unto you...Thus saith the Lord

one of you which eats with Me shall betray me...Ps 41:9, written 1000 years ago by the prophet David about the Son of David, will be fulfilled this day before the sun comes up:

“Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up *his* heel against me.”

His words get the attention of all and an inner focus by each

v19 sorrowful...one by one:

Jesus had just washed their feet, a loving act of humility with a very poignant lesson

Now, He tells them that one of them will betray Him, a spiteful act of pride, after which comes His death as He has stated before

Who heard the announcement?

ALL the disciples...including Judas, who has agreed to surrender his Master to the chief priests, in exchange for 30 pieces of silver

Putting yourself in Judas' sandals, how would you have reacted to this announcement by Jesus?

“I am so busted; I am found out by Jesus.

Maybe I should re-think this, maybe I should come clean and cry out for mercy!”

The disciples are grieved and distressed by

- this unthinkable statement by Jesus, given their
  - love for Him
  - concept of the Messiah (King on the verge of returning the kingdom to Israel)
- the horror that they might be the one to do this wicked act

One by one, each of them individually, asks Jesus if they are the betrayer

This is a heart check for the 12, a time of humble self-examination...  
which is always good

And this includes Judas; this is an opportunity for him to examine himself

All of us should frequently examine ourselves to see if we be in the faith  
of Jesus Christ, living “in Christ” and pleasing to the Father

v20 dips with Me in the dish:

This information narrows down the candidates since not all 12 could reach the  
same dish as the one Jesus used

The betrayer is...nearby, within touching distance of Jesus

v21 as it is written:

All things written in the Word of God  
(the very words of God, not merely man’s words about God)  
will happen

God cannot lie (Titus 1:2);

God is light and in Him is no darkness (1 John 1:5)

God cannot fail;

He is Almighty for Whom nothing is impossible (Luke 1:37, Matt 19:26)

Heaven and earth will pass away but His Words will never pass away;  
the Word of God is settled forever in heaven (Ps 119:89)

The Lord has magnified His Word above His name (Ps 138:2)

Therefore betrayed, killed, buried, AND raised again the 3<sup>rd</sup> day (Matt 17:22-23)  
WILL happen

BUT...Woe to the betrayer!

It would have been better that he had never been born (never had life)  
than to have life and betray the Prince of Life (Acts 3:15) in Whom  
is life and Whose life is the light of men (John 1:4)

It would have been better to not have ever existed than to exist forever in  
the torment of hell and then the Lake of Fire!

The Lord tells all 12, but is speaking pointedly to Judas, that if he  
continues, it will be better that he had never been born than receive  
the wages of his choice...judgment worse than death

Woe indeed!

Jesus' words are heart-stopping and ear-tingling but His tone is gentle and kind  
Given the full picture of the 4 Gospel accounts, Jesus is graciously and  
mercifully giving His friend Judas

- a fair warning
- an opportunity to repent of his wicked 30-pieces-of-silver deal with the  
enemies of Christ

### **Matt 26:21-25**

v21-24 exceedingly sorrowful:  
greatly grieved and distressed

v25 Judas...Master is it I:  
Recorded only in Matthew is Judas' response to Jesus' fair warning to him  
"Master, is it I?"  
"You have said." (i.e. the Woe in v24 is directed at you.)

Jesus' response must have taken his breath away and chilled him to the bone  
Said to whom?  
To Jesus?  
No, to the chief priests when he went to them to sell out his "Master"

Jesus knew He would be betrayed and by whom  
Jesus knows Judas had said to the chief priests that he would betray/surrender  
Jesus to them  
Now Judas knows that Jesus knows what he said to them

Jesus plainly identifies the betrayer...but who heard Jesus say this?

## **Luke 22:21-23**

v21-22 as it was determined:

The betrayal is determined/appointed...foreknown by God vs ordained by God  
God's foreknowledge of man's choices

vs

God's imposition of His choice upon man

God did not choose this for Judas, Judas chose this of his own free will;  
God foreknew his choice

Knowing the choice and making the choice are 2 very different things

This is all part of the Plan of God for the redemption of fallen man, based  
on His foreknowledge of all things from before the foundation of  
the world

v23 enquire among themselves:

Seems like they not only individually asked Jesus if they were the betrayer  
but they also quizzed each other about who would/could do such a  
dastardly thing

## **John 13:21-30**

v21 He was troubled in spirit:

When Jesus had said what?

v10-20

v11 the betrayer is not clean (even though his feet are)

v18 this lesson, to be used in God's "new work", the Church,  
is not for the betrayer, for he will not be a part of it  
I know I have chosen the betrayer; Scripture must be  
fulfilled

v19 I AM the God of Ab and J that spoke to Moses out of the  
burning bush

I AM the Deliverer

I AM the Foundation of God's "new work" (Matt 16:18)

v20 I will send you to do the "new work"

Those who believe you, believe Me and the Father Who  
sent Me (John 1:12-13)

(the betrayer does not believe Me or My Father)

After His teaching by example of the meaning of “greatest in the kingdom”,  
Jesus is troubled in spirit because of Judas’ unbelief and impending  
betrayal

Even though Jesus knew from the beginning that Judas would betray Him  
(John 6:64-71), it still troubled Him

- a. Jesus is 100% God (v19) but He is also 100% Man...  
and betrayal cuts deep and jagged

Being betrayed by a friend, someone you have poured your heart  
into for years, is a deeply troubling thing

Heb 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be  
touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was  
in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin

- b. Even with His foreknowledge (no surprises), the Lord God is still  
grieved by the wicked choices of men  
2 Peter 3:9  
1 Tim 2:4

Our Maker is deeply hurt by those who turn against Him after He  
had shown them so much kindness, mercy, grace, and  
longsuffering...so much love

Note: If the sovereign God chooses but men cannot choose,  
why is Jesus troubled in His spirit about Judas?

v22 doubting of whom He spoke:

In Mark, Matt, and Luke, the disciples

- were greatly distressed
- examined themselves
- individually asked the Lord if he were the betrayer

Here in John, the disciples were also “eye-ing” each other, not knowing who  
Jesus was speaking of and wondering who it might be

In Matthew only, Judas asked if he were the betrayer and Jesus so identified him

But who heard that conversation between Jesus and Judas, who is obviously very  
near to Jesus at the supper?

Apparently none of the other 11 disciples heard it

v23    leaning on Jesus' bosom...Jesus loved:  
      Who is this unnamed disciple?  
      John

      He never refers to himself by name in "his" Gospel but as "the disciple  
      Jesus loved"  
      This is the 1<sup>st</sup> of 5 times John so identifies himself

      Did Jesus only love John?

      v1, 21

      John, inspired to write 5 books in the mid-90s, recorded many of the words of  
      God regarding Love  
      91 occurrences of "love"/"loved"/"lovest" in Gospel of John, 1/2/3 John

v24-25    Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him:

      Peter and John were

- partners in a fishing business before Jesus called them to follow Him
- 2 of the 3 disciples in Jesus' "Inner Circle"
- the ones sent to prepare this room for their Passover meal

      John is reclining on Jesus' bosom

      Peter is nearby

      Peter "signaled" to John to ask Jesus who the betrayer is...and John does so

v26    whom I shall give a sop:

      Jesus answers John regarding who the betrayer is, not by name but directly  
      nonetheless

      sop: bite-sized piece of bread and meat/herbs/etc dipped in a common dish of  
      gravy/oil/broth ala French Dip (common bowl of au jus)

      In cultural context, giving a sop was the equivalent of "giving a toast",  
      a gesture of friendship

      Jesus "toasted", extended a gesture of friendship to...Judas Iscariot

- plainly revealing Judas Iscariot as the betrayer
- v1, loving Judas to the end
- giving Judas an opportunity to repent (Rom 2:4)

v27 after the sop Satan entered:

Judas,

- knowing Jesus knows he is the betrayer
- receiving a “toast”, a gesture of friendship, from the One he is going to betray/”stab in the back”

brazenly takes the sop and eats it

Judas displays no repentance

He may have well spit in Jesus’ face right then

Judas made a choice, now he doubles down on it

And as had happened the prior day in Luke 22:3, Satan entered into  
Judas Iscariot the 2<sup>nd</sup> time

And Jesus knew it

He turns to the Satan-indwelt betrayer and commands him to do quickly what he  
was going to do

Judas Iscariot is dismissed from the disciples;

leaven has been purged from Jesus’ “house”

Jesus cleansed His Father’s house a few days ago...now He is cleansing “His”

Why “do quickly”?

Hundreds of prophecies are to be fulfilled in a very short period of time;  
the Plan of God is on a very precise time schedule and all will be  
accomplished

The other 11 did not hear the exchange between Jesus and Judas in Matt 26:25  
Did they hear this exchange/command?

v28-29 no man at the table knew:

The other 11 heard Jesus say, “That you do, do quickly” but they did not know  
what Judas was to do, and do quickly.

They did not hear v24-26a

John heard v26a...but did not know what Jesus meant by v27

Jesus’ tone of voice did not give them a clue;

His tone was probably in keeping with v1 and v26 – a Friend

So they assumed Jesus had commissioned Judas the treasurer with the money bag

- to get some things they needed for their Passover meal...  
to do a service for Him
- to give something to the poor...  
to do a good deed



Betrayal was unthinkable...so they didn't think that

Rather, they assumed and surmised

- Judas cannot be a traitor...
  - he holds a position of responsibility
  - he is trusted with the money bag/agape box
- Jesus must have sent Judas on an errand
  - to buy more food
  - to help the poor get ready for Passover

Judas fooled everybody...except Jesus

v30    went immediately out...night:

Judas was dismissed, he left immediately

Jesus is in command of the situation

Satan MUST obey Jesus

Thus, the leaven (sin) was purged from Jesus' "house" on this Passover;

Blessed subtraction

The Jewish day begins at...sundown

This Final Day is still early when Judas is expelled

Hardened in his unbelief and self-will,

Judas cannot hear the heart-stopping words of fair warning by Jesus

Judas does not repent

Out into the darkness of night and the darkness of evil went Judas Iscariot

He had rejected the Light of the world in favor of the false light/darkness  
of the world...so "naturally" it was dark outside and "inside"

1. We must consider Judas Iscariot

This betrayal unto death was known before Gen 1:1 and was foretold in Scripture and then by Jesus Himself

And so was known and foretold the Messiah's victory over death, sin, Satan.

But woe to him who sells out to Satan and betrays/rejects the Messiah

The Plan of God is not untracked by the work of the betrayer/unbeliever...  
they are all foreknown and used in the Plan

Judas, even after ~2½ years of "following" Jesus,

- was not humbled and heart broken by his sin
- did not see himself as a wretched sinner in desperate need of salvation by faith
- was not like-minded with Jesus...meekness, humility, self-last love, service to others "lesser"
- did not examine himself in the light of the Word of God
- did not call on the name of the Lord in this time of intense trial
- did not place his confidence in Jesus but rather in his flesh and the world

1 John 2:15-17

Are there not "Christians" of which the same can be said?

Self-examination: Am I one of those self-deceived "Christians"?

Judas forsook and betrayed the One who loved him unto the end and never forsook him.

Judas is now cast out...forever

Instead of crying, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man", Judas departed Jesus in pursuit of his own will...which leads to self-destruction

Instead of crying, "Woe is me, I am undone", Judas set out to undo what Jesus was doing, the ultimate "vanity of vanities"

How does this end for Judas?

Acts 1:18

...because he did not believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God

## 2. We must also consider Jesus

On this Final Day, facing His betrayer with hostile intentions, Jesus is:

- gracious
- merciful
- gentle
- Friend-ly
- soft spoken (tone of voice)
- crystal clear
- troubled

He came to pay for the sins of the world, including the sins of the betrayer  
He came to reconcile man to God

He is troubled that His

- grace
- gift of repentance
- gift of salvation
- self-less sacrificial love

are being rejected by a self-willed friend He loves unto the end

His grace, gifts, love, and reconciliation are being frustrated...

- it takes two for a reconciliation
- there can be no reconciliation if one party is not willing

Given the eternal consequences of Judas' choice to reject God's

- grace
- gifts of repentance and salvation
- love
- reconciliation

it is very troubling to the Party who is willing

3. We must consider ourselves...self-examination

What a Friend we have in Jesus, Amen?!

What kind of a friend am I to Jesus, the Lord God?

Do I care more about Him than I do myself, as He does me?

Matt 16:24 as He did the Father

Do I spend time with Jesus every day?

talking and listening

reading and studying the Word

Do I always come to our worship service to worship Him and give Him the honor

He is due...or ...

Do I often have something better to do than come here?

Am I easily distracted or discouraged, an easy target for the tempter?

What kind of a friend am I to friends/others?

Do I care more about myself than I do them?

words (topic and tone) and deeds

Am I a “one-sided” friend?

4. For those who are not Friends with Jesus:

Jesus Christ is the Best Friend, even if we are un-friendly

Heb 12:2...for whosoever would believe/trust/depend on/receive

I have, and my eternity is certain – in the presence of God and His glory (life)

So have many of you

Judas did not, and his eternity is as certain – eternal torment (death/perish)

As have not some of you

God’s will/choice is that all will come to repentance and live

Jesus has paid the full price and is offering the best gift ever –

eternal life with Him

Will you humble yourself before your Creator and receive His love and His life?

If you will, come over there to pray with me.