

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Day 1: Jesus Knows and Still Loves

Reading: Psalm 41:1-13

Jesus quoted Psalm 41 knowing full well that Judas would betray Him, yet He chose him anyway. This wasn't divine ignorance—it was divine love choosing vulnerability. Jesus wasn't caught off guard; He was in complete control, yet deeply troubled by the pain of betrayal. Consider this: Jesus knows every time we will fail Him, yet He still calls us His own. His foreknowledge doesn't diminish His hurt, but it doesn't diminish His love either. Today, reflect on areas where you've betrayed Jesus through compromise or disobedience and yet, He still wants you to be His. Let that reality deepen your gratitude and strengthen your commitment to follow Him faithfully.

Day 2: The Reliability of God's Word

Reading: Luke 24:25-27, 44-49

After Jesus' resurrection, He opened the disciples' minds to understand how all Scripture pointed to Him. Like John Newton, whose childhood Scripture memorization later saved his soul during a storm, God's Word planted in our hearts never returns void. The Bible isn't just ancient literature—it's God's reliable revelation of Himself. When doubts assail your faith, return to the fulfilled promises of God. When life feels chaotic, remember that God's plan unfolds exactly as He declares. Spend time today reading Scripture not just for information, but for transformation. What promises has God planted in your heart that you need to water with faith?

Day 3: Love Requires Vulnerability

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:4-13

Jesus chose to love Judas knowing betrayal was coming. True love always involves risk. As parents love children who will inevitably disappoint them, as spouses commit "for better or worse," Jesus committed to loving humanity despite our guaranteed failures. Love doesn't protect us from hurt—it guarantees we'll experience it. Yet Jesus calls us to this same vulnerable love. Jesus modeled that authentic relationships require us to risk betrayal for the possibility of genuine connection. Who in your life needs your vulnerable, risky love today? Perhaps someone has hurt you, yet God is calling you to extend grace anyway. Remember: Jesus was betrayed by all His disciples at various times, yet He continued loving them—and us—completely.

Day 4: Don't Let Others' Failures Define Your Calling

Reading: John 13:20; 2 Timothy 4:9-18

When Jesus announced His betrayal, the disciples felt discouraged. If one of them could fall, maybe their entire mission was compromised. Jesus immediately countered this thinking: "Anyone who welcomes my messenger is welcoming me." Their calling remained intact despite Judas's failure. How often do we use others' hypocrisy as an excuse for our own spiritual laziness? "The church is full of hypocrites" becomes justification for abandoning our faith journey. But people aren't your example—Jesus is. Your calling doesn't depend on others' faithfulness; it depends on Christ's faithfulness. Don't let someone else's failure become your excuse. What calling has God placed on your life that you've neglected because of others' failures?

Day 5: Grace Extended Until the Final Moment

Reading: Romans 5:6-11; 2 Peter 3:9

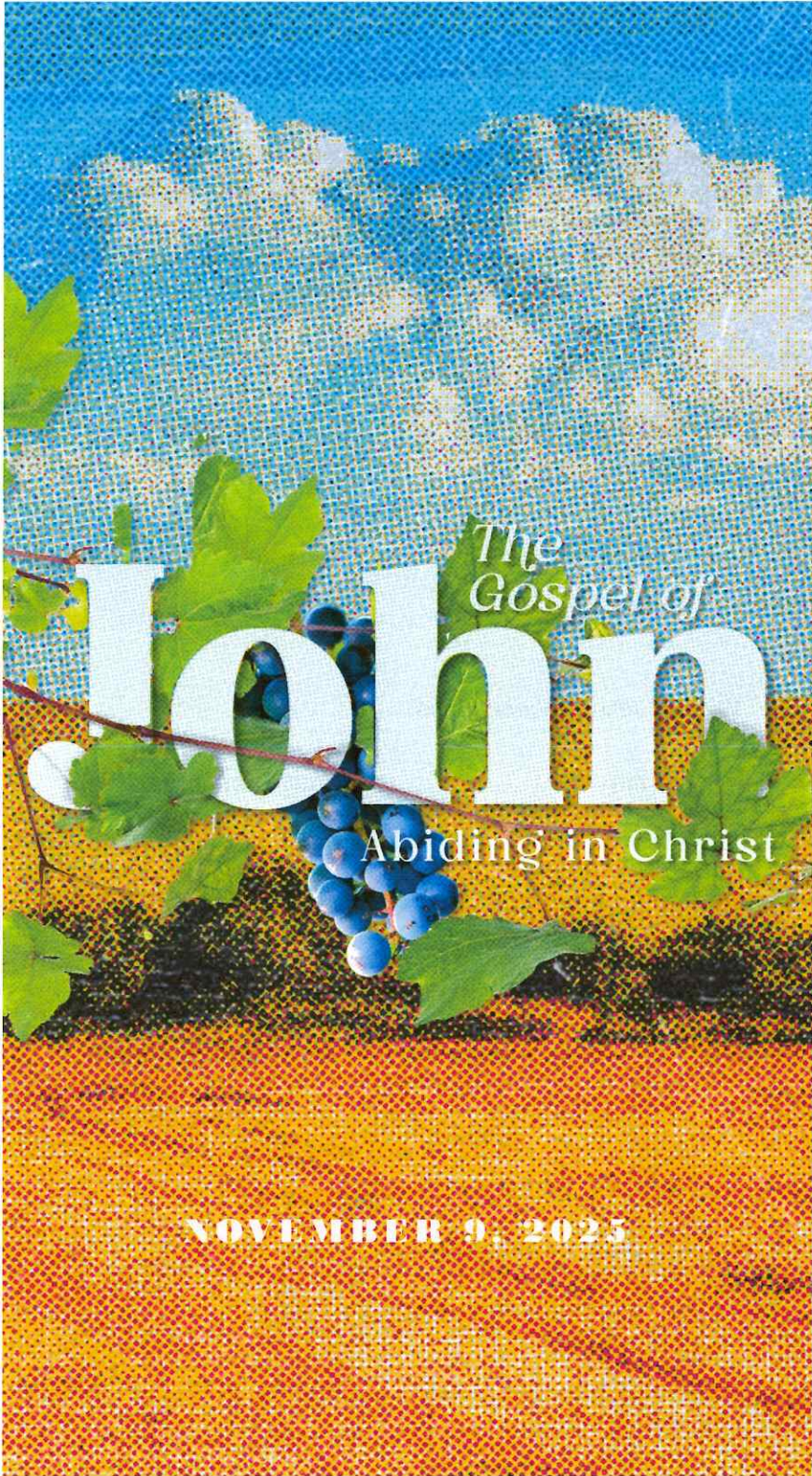
Jesus sat next to Judas at the Last Supper, leaning toward his heart until the very end. Even as He identified the betrayer, Jesus extended the bread—a final offer of fellowship and grace. Christ's patience toward Judas mirrors His patience toward all of us. He pursues us relentlessly. The question isn't whether grace is available—it's whether we'll receive it. Are you leaning toward Jesus today or away from Him? Perhaps you've been running from God, assuming He's given up on you. He hasn't. In His hand is your pardon, signed with His own blood. Whatever you've done, wherever you've been, His grace reaches further. Today, stop running and receive the forgiveness He's been offering all along. Then extend that same persistent grace to someone who doesn't deserve it—just as Jesus did for you.

DEACONS ON CALL

Cleve Bearden and Marc Traweek

WEEKLY EVENTS

- **WORSHIP:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **SMALL GROUPS:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **DEEP DIVE:** Wednesdays at Noon & 6:45 PM
- **FIRST KIDS:** Wednesdays at 5:30 PM
- **FIRST YOUTH:** Wednesdays: MS 5:30 PM, HS 7:00 PM



Betrayed / John 13:18-30

Relationships can withstand an enormous amount of pressure, but betrayal is sure to end most. The old English word means to hand over or to deliver. Think of it: while Jesus was about to deliver the world from sin and its destruction, Judas was about to deliver the Savior over to His enemies. If you've ever felt betrayed by someone, this study will have special application to you.

1. This event gives us _____ in Jesus.

2. This event produced _____ for us.

a. It produced a greater trust in the _____.

b. It produced a greater trust in the _____.

c. It produced a greater trust in their _____.

3. This event shows Christ's _____ toward Judas.

Scripture References (In order of use): Hebrews 4:15
Referenced Works: Canne, Browne, Blayney, Scott (The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge); Addresses on the Gospel of John (H. A. Ironside); The Beloved Disciple's Memoirs and Letters (Bob Utley); John: That You May Believe (R. Kent Hughes); The Gospel of John (Jack Wilson Stallings)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever experienced a situation where justice was eventually served after an initial injustice? How did that make you feel?
2. Read **John 13:18-30**. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. Why do you think Jesus chose Judas as a disciple if He knew Judas would betray Him?
4. Jesus was "deeply troubled" (v. 21) even though He knew what was coming. What does this tell us about Jesus' humanity? How does this help you relate to Him?
5. Patrick mentioned that "to love anyone at all is to be vulnerable." When have you experienced hurt from someone you loved? How did you respond?
6. Have you ever been betrayed or disappointed by someone in the church? How did that affect your faith? What does Jesus' response to Judas teach us about how we should respond?
7. Patrick stated: "People are not your example! Jesus is!" How can we keep our eyes on Jesus when we're disappointed by other Christians?
8. Jesus told the disciples that the betrayal of one person shouldn't diminish their calling (v. 20). What calling or ministry has God placed on your life? What obstacles or discouragements have threatened to derail it?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

- Memorize **Hebrews 4:15**: "This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin." When you face difficulty this week, remind yourself that Jesus understands.
- Identify someone who has hurt or betrayed you (even in a small way). Pray for them daily this week. Consider reaching out to them with grace, following Jesus' example with Judas.