

# The Gospel of John

## Revealing the Betrayer

### John 13:18-30

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

Please open your Bibles to John 13. We are in the the upper room with Jesus and His disciples during the Last Supper. He has just finished washing all of the disciples feet and sat down at the table. Now He is going to clarify a statement that He made back in verses 10 and 11. He knew that there was one there who would betray Him and He said "Not all of you are clean".

The most notorious traitor of all time was Judas Iscariot. Judas was one of the twelve closest followers of Jesus during His earthly ministry. Yet despite three years of living constantly with Jesus and experiencing many of his miracles and hearing His teachings, Judas betrayed Him to His death for thirty pieces of silver.

Judas was obviously not attracted to Christ on a spiritual level. Like many of his fellow Jews, he fervently hoped that Jesus would overthrow the Romans and free them. He was also motivated by greed, the desire for power, and worldly ambition. As one in the inner circle of Jesus' followers, he no doubt hoped for an important position in a restored earthly kingdom.

As time went on, he became increasingly disillusioned. Jesus showed no signs of becoming the conquering political and military messiah he fervently hoped for. So he went to the chief priests and asked them what they were willing to offer him if he would betray Jesus to them.

This was his mindset when we enter our scripture reading this morning.

#### **Stand and Read Scripture**

##### **John 13:18-30 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup>I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but *it is* that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats My bread has lifted up his heel against Me.' <sup>19</sup>From now on I am telling you before *it* comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am *He*. <sup>20</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."

<sup>21</sup>When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me." <sup>22</sup>The disciples *began* looking at one another, at a loss *to know* of which one He was speaking. <sup>23</sup>There was reclining on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. <sup>24</sup>So Simon Peter gestured to him, and said to him, "Tell *us* who it is of whom He is speaking." <sup>25</sup>He, leaning back thus on Jesus' bosom, said to Him, "Lord, who is it?" <sup>26</sup>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*.<sup>27</sup> After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly.”<sup>28</sup> Now no one of those reclining *at the table* knew for what purpose He had said this to him.<sup>29</sup> 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.<sup>30</sup> So after receiving the morsel he went out immediately; and it was night.

## Prayer

### **BODY:**

#### **I. THE PROPHECIED BETRAYAL.**

##### **John 13:18 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup> I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but *it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, ‘He who eats My bread has lifted up his heel against Me.’*

Jesus was now going to clarify what He meant when He told Peter in verse 10 that "**not all of you are clean**". Jesus wanted to make sure that the rest of the disciples understood when the betrayal and arrest took place that night in the Garden of Gethsemane that He was already aware that it was going to take place. He quoted from the Psalm of David and said it was soon to be a fulfillment of scripture.

##### **Psalm 41:9 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup> Even my close friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.

Jesus knew that the disciples were only human. They would have wondered how Jesus could have made such a misjudgment of character concerning Judas Iscariot. So when Judas would appear before Jesus that night with the Roman cohort and the officers from the chief priests and Pharisees they would understand what was going on. Jesus was not being caught unaware, He was simply continuing to do God's will.

Judas was not a robot. He was not programmed to betray Jesus against his own will. He freely chose to betray Jesus for money and was fully accountable for his actions.

Jesus even warned him of the peril that awaited him if he would continue to go through with the betrayal during the last supper.

##### **Matthew 26:21-25 (NASB)**

<sup>21</sup> As they were eating, He said, “Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me.”<sup>22</sup> Being deeply grieved, they each one began to say to Him, “Surely not I, Lord?”<sup>23</sup> And He answered, “He who dipped his hand with Me in the bowl is the one who will betray Me.<sup>24</sup> The Son of Man *is to go*, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.”<sup>25</sup> And Judas, who was betraying Him, said, “Surely it is not I, Rabbi?” Jesus said to him, “You have said *it yourself*.”

Judas had every opportunity to turn from his sin yet he allowed his love of money, greed, and pride to remain unrepentant.

## II. THE BETRAYAL ANNOUNCED.

### **John 13:19a (NASB)**

<sup>19</sup> From now on I am telling you before *it* comes to pass,...

As previously noted, Jesus wanted to make sure that the betrayal of Judas would not shake the other disciple's faith in Him. By telling them in advance before it came to pass, they could look back and know that Jesus knew everything that was going to happen. Not only about the betrayal of Judas, but also concerning His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead.

### **John 13:19b (NASB)**

...so that when it does occur, you may believe that **I am He**.

Jesus once again proclaimed His deity to the disciples by declaring that He is "**I AM**" the divine name of God from Exodus 3:13-14. The word "He" is not in the Greek text. I am the prophesied Messiah of the Old Testament.

### **John 13:20 (NASB)**

<sup>20</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."

Jesus understood that having a traitor in their midst might cause the disciples to think that it would destroy their credibility as a group and end their mission. Then to see Jesus crucified would nullify their belief of an earthly kingdom with Him. It might have been the final straw. But Jesus is assuring the disciples that despite the betrayal of Judas, they were still going to be commissioned to go out into the whole world. During His ministry, Jesus had sent the twelve apostles out two by two to preach repentance. Also after His resurrection he commissioned them again.

### **Matthew 28:19-20 (NASB)**

<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

It is important to note that all believers are commissioned to make disciples of all nations as well. In our society, we often feel we do not want to bother other people with "Jesus talk". This is a hurdle that we must get over. How can we truly love Jesus and what He has done for us if we are unwilling to share His story with others?

### **John 13:21 (NASB)**

<sup>21</sup> When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me."

Jesus was fully human. The thought of the pain and anguish that He was about to face with the whip and the cross was no doubt troubling to Him. The fate that Judas was going to face would also weigh heavy on his mind.

## III. THE UNEASINESS OF THE TWELVE.

### **John 13:22 (NASB)**

<sup>22</sup> The disciples *began* looking at one another, at a loss *to know* of which one He was speaking.

Mark tells us that this caused the disciples to grieve.

### **Mark 14:19 (NASB)**

<sup>19</sup> They began to be grieved and to say to Him one by one, "Surely not I?"

Even Judas said "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?". This was in an attempt to maintain his hypocrisy to the end.

### **John 13:23-25 (NASB)**

<sup>23</sup> There was reclining on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. <sup>24</sup> So Simon Peter gestured to him, and said to him, "Tell us who it is of whom He is speaking." <sup>25</sup> He, leaning back thus on Jesus' bosom, said to Him, "Lord, who is it?"

Peter, always the impulsive one, took the initiative to find out. Rather than ask Jesus directly, he asked John who was sitting next to Jesus.

That brings us to the final point: the traitor is confronted.

## **IV. THE TRAITOR CONFRONTED.**

### **John 13:26 (NASB)**

<sup>26</sup> 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*.

There were two disciples named Judas. Jesus makes it clear that it was the son of Simon Iscariot. This is the unmasking of the betrayer. It appears that only Peter and John may have known. The rest do not seem to know what is going on, as we will see.

What is the morsel? Common meal in those days was a large bowl of kind of a paste. It was made up of things like raisins and figs and dates, and all mashed together or somehow cut up. Then they would put in some vinegar and some salt and some herbs. They would dip unleavened bread into the paste and eat before they ate the actual Passover lamb. It was the custom to give the first piece of bread to the honored guest. And Jesus, in a gesture of amazing honor to Judas, gives him the morsel as if he were an intimate friend.

And then hell arrived.

### **John 13:27 (NASB)**

<sup>27</sup> After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. (Who would know that? Only Jesus.) Therefore Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."

The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas to do this, and now he takes full possession of Judas. Satan had entered him to carry out the greatest efforts of hell. But he was actually going to carry out the greatest effort heaven ever made to rescue sinners.

Jesus then said, "What you do, do quickly."

Jesus controlled every detail of His death, as He had told the Jews.

### **John 10:17b-18a (NASB)**

<sup>17</sup> ...I lay down My life so that I may take it again. <sup>18</sup> No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. ...

With the statement of Jesus, "What you do, do quickly," He initiated His own death. It is step one of His own execution. Judas is the trigger and he left immediately. He knew he had to act quickly before the whole plot collapsed. He evidently went straight to the Sanhedrin and told them that the "opportune time" had come where they could arrest Jesus "apart from the crowd". Judas knew that after the meal, "as was His custom", would go to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray.

### **John 13:28 (NASB)**

<sup>28</sup> Now no one of those reclining *at the table* knew for what purpose He had said this to him.

They didn't know why He sent Judas away. They hadn't heard the private conversation.

### **John 13:29-30 (NASB)**

<sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> So after receiving the morsel he went out immediately; and it was night.

I am sure Judas was glad to get out, now that he was exposed. **And was it ever night for Judas!** It was night forever, and Judas would never see another daylight for he went out and hanged himself. He is in outer darkness forever. The day is gone. Eternal night has fallen on Judas.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Remember what Jesus told the disciples back in verse 19?

### **John 13:19 (NASB)**

<sup>19</sup> From now on I am telling you before *it* comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am *He*.

He has done the same thing for us in the scriptures. Just like the disciples, we may not fully understand, but it is very important that we know and remember them.

Speaking of the second coming of Christ, Paul tells us that we do not fully understand what is in our future.

### **1 Corinthians 13:12 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

"Now we see in a mirror dimly". Just as the disciples did not understand what was about to take place, they were told so that when the events did take place, they would then understand.

If it was important for Jesus to tell His **own disciples** who had been with Him through **three years of ministry** of things to come, how much more important is it that we pay attention to the scripture concerning our future.

Jesus has told us of events that are going to occur in the future. We may not understand them fully, but it is important that we are familiar with the scripture. The ultimate deceiver, the anti-Christ, will be doing his best to deceive the world. When these things happen we (like the disciples) will understand what is going on and not be swayed from our faith. This is important because our eternity depends upon us remaining faithful.

Times will become difficult for mankind, especially Christians, during the end times.

### **Matthew 24:21-27 (NASB)**

<sup>21</sup> For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. <sup>22</sup> Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. <sup>23</sup> Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There *He is*,' do not believe *him*. <sup>24</sup> **For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.** <sup>25</sup> **Behold, I have told you in advance.** <sup>26</sup> So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out, *or*, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe *them*. <sup>27</sup> For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

We see in a mirror dimly. We will see things happen that we do not understand. We will experience things in our life that we will not make sense to us. But we are promised that all things work together for good for those who love the Lord.

Although the betrayal of Judas was the greatest betrayal that will ever happen in the history of mankind, it demonstrated that there is nothing sinful men can do to alter the sovereign will of God. God used his treachery for His own glory. Out of the seeming tragedy of the cross came the triumph of redemption. Satan's apparent victory was, in reality, his own defeat.

**Genesis 50:20** sums it up. Joseph was speaking to his brothers in Egypt concerning them selling him into slavery and telling their dad that he had been killed by animals.

"As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for..." what? "For good."

**This is the Day.**