

EXPOSITION OF JOHN

Message #52

John 13:18-30

We are now just hours (less than 24 hours) from Jesus Christ dying on a cross for our sins as the only God/Savior. In three days He would be raised from the dead and in 40 days He would be gone, ascended back up into heaven (Acts 1:3).

For three plus years He has allowed His disciples to travel with Him. He has performed miracles, He has taught them, He has specifically told them that He is God and yet, as He nears the time for Him to go to the cross, we come to perhaps the most depressing moment of His earthly life in that, according to **John 13:19**, He had to specifically tell them about the fact that He would be betrayed so they would “believe that I am He.” There is a false theology that is propagated that says in order to be saved you must follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. The teaching says if you aren’t willing to follow Him, you aren’t saved. Well Judas followed Jesus Christ. He left everything and followed Him for over three years and he was a devil. The issue of salvation is not works, but faith. Jesus tells the disciples about Judas for faith purposes.

Apparently Jesus felt that when Judas betrayed Him, their faith was so unstable and insecure that they might waver concerning who He is. So He has to tell them things trying to convince them that He is who He told them He was. Jesus communicates prophetic Scriptures to the disciples for “faith comes by hearing the Word of God.”

Let’s face it, Jesus is God and He knows exactly what is going to happen. But He needs to specifically tell these other disciples about it, so they would actually believe He is who He has been telling them He is for three plus years, so He presents the truth of God to them.

The main point of this passage is this:

JESUS CHRIST CLEARLY DISCUSSES HIS BETRAYAL AND CLEARLY INFORMS HIS DISCIPLES ABOUT IT SO THEY WOULD SOMEDAY COME TO BELIEVE THAT HE IS THE ONLY GOD/SAVIOR.

POINT #1 – Not every disciple would be happy and blessed by God. **13:18-19**

Jesus had just given the disciples the key to being happy and blessed by God, through humble service. He had just washed all the disciples’ feet, including the feet of Judas. But in **verse 18**, He says not every disciple will be happy and blessed, but only the ones I have chosen to be. In fact, He goes on to say that one of the disciples would lift up his heel against Him and the reason why he would do this was to fulfill the prophetic Scriptures.

The specific quotation is taken from Psalm 41:9 and is a double reference. It refers to Ahithophel, David’s trusted friend who ate with him, who betrayed him and then hanged himself (II Samuel 16:20-17:3, 23). And also it is a prophetic reference to Judas, who would betray Jesus Christ and then hang himself. The written Word reveals the truth and Jesus is citing it.

John has revealed that Judas had not believed on Jesus Christ (6:64-71). Judas had not been washed clean of his sins (13:10-11), and he was not one of the chosen or elect (13:18; 17:12). **In fact, in John 6:70, Jesus said that He chose the twelve and one of them “is” a devil, not “will become” a devil. He chose him knowing he was a devil.**

You do not want to tamper with the doctrine of election, but you had better cry out to God for His elective grace and ask Him to save you. You can come very close to being saved from your sins and never actually be saved from your sins. Judas was the treasurer for Jesus Christ. He fooled everyone except Jesus Christ who knew he was lost and he was satanic. Jesus Christ knows the phonies. He knows the religious play actors. He knows the hypocrites. He knows who does truly believe in Him and who doesn't. No one fools Him at church. You will never be able to blame your failure to recognize you are a sinner in need of a Savior on any “predetermined fate.” Any person with half a brain can see that he/she is a sinner in need of a Savior and if you don't see this or admit this, then your lost condition is due to your pride in refusing to acknowledge truth.

The fact that Jesus knew about all of this before any of it happened and actually predicts precisely what will happen based on O.T. prophecy, is another clear evidence that He is God. The reason He told His disciples this, was so that they would believe He was the only God/Savior.

Before moving on, let us see how important it is to know the written Word because this is what produces faith. This is why Jesus cites it to His disciples, so they would “believe” in Him. Our public schools and universities are destroying the faith of young people because they have taken God's Word out of their system of education. It is the Word that produces faith. There is nothing more valuable in this entire world as an understanding of the written Word of God.

POINT #2 – Every person who receives one actually connected to God is actually connected to God. **13:20**

Jesus Christ was leaving and His work would be carried on by these very disciples. They would become Christ's ambassadors. They would minister for Him and they would speak for Him. Jesus wanted these disciples to know that their work among people was intimately connected to Him and God.

Christ presents two “truly, truly” statements in this context (**13:20, 21**). By using the “truly, truly” formula, Jesus wanted His chosen disciples to know a “truly, truly,” dogmatic certainty truth. The unbendable truth is this - when God sends someone to an area and people receive him and views him as such, then those people have an intimate relationship with God the Son and God the Father who sent him. This truth will never change. It is most certainly true.

Now Jesus was leaving and He would eventually send His disciples to various parts of the world. He wanted them to know how sacred they actually were. These are not guys relocating for a job, these are men sent by God to specific areas and the people who realize this and receive them and their teaching are viewed by God as receiving God the Son and God the Father.

I want us to understand the ramifications of this. God is still in the business of sending His people to various places. I am sure that all of us have heard the term “foreign missionary” and most think of it in terms of some missionary who is not ministering here in the United States. Well if you know Jesus Christ, you are, as Peter says, an alien, a stranger and a foreigner in this world and wherever you live or work or play, you are a foreign missionary. You and I have the privilege of telling sinners about their need to believe on Jesus Christ so that their sins may be forgiven. When God sends you to someone and they receive what you say, they receive Jesus Christ and are in a right relationship with God.

POINT #3 – One disciple will betray Jesus Christ. **13:21-30**

We come contextually to “truly, truly” statement number two. This is a dogmatically certain truth that is unchangeable; one will betray Him.

Notice **verse 21** says Jesus became “troubled in spirit.” This is the same word that is used in the Lazarus context in 11:33 and it is clearly in the context of unbelief. I am convinced that is exactly the reason here. The Greek word (ταρασσω) is one that refers to things disturbing, things stirred up. Jesus was greatly disturbed because it is time for Him to go to the cross and one of His own disciples must betray Him and He is still trying to get His disciples to believe in Him as the God/Savior. This was disturbing. Very disturbing. He is about to endure the wrath of God and our sin on a cross and one of His own disciples would betray Him and the rest of them were in somewhat of a state of fickle faith. Who wouldn’t be troubled by this?

Now Jesus said - one “of” you will betray Me. **The preposition “of” (εκ) means out from within**. In other words, “from you disciples, one is coming out of you who will betray me and the rest of you need to believe in Me.” No wonder Jesus was troubled in spirit.

I wonder if when Jesus looks down at us here tonight and His holy eyes search our hearts if He is saying “one of you will betray Me.” If you have never yielded your heart to Him, you are capable of sinking into as Dr. Ironside said, the “depths of iniquity” (*John*, p. 568).

Now as soon as Jesus said this, there were a series of eight actions that occurred:

Action #1 - The disciples began looking at one another, not knowing which one it could be.
13:22

The pronoun “another” is another of the same kind. Every disciple was looking around at the other disciples. What is so sad here is that their faith is so shallow that they think it could potentially be any one of them. We make a big mistake when we think we can figure out who the elect is and who it isn’t. Truth is we don’t know and it doesn’t matter how close we are to God. God sees things we don’t. God knows things we don’t. **Some we think are not saved probably are and some we think are saved probably aren’t.**

Action #2 - John was reclining on Jesus' breast. 13:23

Most believe that John was sitting on Jesus' right side and Judas was on His left. Typically you reclined on your left arm and ate with your right hand. So John would actually lean into Jesus, whereas Judas would lean away from Jesus. But don't miss this; Judas was in an honorable position right up until the time of his departure. You can be an honored church member right up until you die and end up in hell. Don't kid yourself. This happens all the time.

John never refers to himself by name, because his purpose is not to elevate himself but Jesus Christ. But this disciple was John. Tertullian claimed that John was quite young when Jesus called him and if that be the case, then we see how special John was in his relationship to Jesus Christ because he is right next to Jesus and he was the disciple "whom Jesus loved."

There is nothing more special to God than young people who love Jesus Christ. You yield your life to the Lord at a young age and the possibilities that you have for God using you and loving you are endless.

Action #3 - Peter wanted to know who it was who would betray Jesus. 13:24

Peter saw John sitting close to Jesus and he says get Him to tell you who it is. You are in the best possible position to ask God questions when you are close to Jesus Christ. John physically was very close to Jesus Christ.

Peter's view is point him out and we will take care of him right here, right now. Of course Jesus could not do that because it was critical that He go to the cross and if He told them specifically who it was, they would have prevented Judas from betraying Him. I want you to see this point - **Jesus actually protects the identity of the one who will betray Him so that His cross work will not be hindered.** That is how much He loved us. He could have named Judas and those disciples would have taken care of him, but He doesn't do that because the only way sinners may be saved is by His work on Calvary.

Action #4 - John wanted to know who it was who would betray Jesus. 13:25

Now John was right next to Jesus Christ so He could ask Him. John in response to Peter leaned over to Jesus and asked him who it was that would betray Him.

Action #5 - Jesus said it would be the one to whom He would hand a morsel of bread. 13:26

This is about as clear an answer as He could give without naming Judas. He dipped the morsel and handed it directly to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Now Judas is so evil that he takes something out of the hand of Jesus as if he is his friend when he is going to betray him and that hand will be shortly nailed to a cross. Don't kid yourself; there are phonies who go to church and fellowship dinners. There are Judas-types that get involved in church life and action. They may work in the church for years. But a Judas-type has never actually believed on Jesus Christ.

Judas was not from Galilee but from Kerioth (Iscariot is Hebraic and means he was "a man of Kerioth") (ish - carioth) a city in southern Judah. He was probably the most religious, respectable and polished man of the twelve. He had the best background and a good religious upbringing. However, he was a satanic man on his way to hell.

Action #6 - As soon as Jesus gave Judas the morsel of bread, Satan entered Judas. **13:27**

What you are actually seeing here is a man at this table who is Satan possessed. He is not acting weird. He is not rolling his eyes or shouting obscenities. He is not chanting, wearing dark clothing or holding a candle. This Satan possessed man is sitting in the most sacred place possible, in a room with Jesus Christ.

People make a big mistake when they miss the fact that demon possessed people are respectable people who go to church. Demon possessed people hang around people who are really right with God. One day, we may be shocked as to how many demon possessed people were in our presence.

What is so interesting and important to see here is that Jesus commands Satan what to do. Satan is not the one in charge, Jesus is in charge and He told him to do what he would do quickly.

If a person goes to church who has never actually believed on Jesus Christ and happens to be there on a communion Sunday and actually takes the bread and the cup which commemorates the precious sacrificial work of Christ on the cross, you may be absolutely certain Satan is present. Demons are there with and perhaps in that person.

Action #7 - Not one disciple knew Judas was Satan possessed or that he was the betrayer. **13:28**

None of the disciples had a clue as to what was happening here. No one grasped what was happening here. You would not necessarily see or know one was demon possessed. Hollywood presents demon possession in ways that are not Biblical. Demon possessed people are religious and respectable. They go to church sing the hymns, serve in various capacities and may even be in leadership. They have fooled every one in the church and no one can see their real heart's condition. That is no one except God.

Action #8 - All the disciples thought Judas was a good man going to buy things for the Passover Feast. **13:29-30**

They saw the fact that Jesus gave him bread as a meaning he served him first, because He had things for him to do. **They interpreted this as a good thing and the reason why is because they did not interpret this literally.** Had they interpreted Christ's words literally, they would have immediately seen who the traitor was.

Here is a traitor who is Satan possessed and the disciples think he is a good guy who is going to buy supplies and help the poor. They remembered the big discussion Judas got into about the poor when Jesus' feet were being anointed and thought he is on some benevolent mission. Don't kid yourself - satanic people are religious and most people have the opinion that they are good, caring people. You can be very close to Jesus Christ and not believe in Him. You can go to church for years and never admit you are a sinner relying on Christ as your only Savior. Will you trust Him tonight or will you leave like Judas?