

Find Life in the Son: Devil's Door John 13:18-30

Introduction

The final hours Jesus spent with the disciples in the upper room the night He was betrayed were sacred and unforgettable. John's record of those hours gives us some of the greatest instruction of all time. But not everyone there that night benefited from what Jesus did and said. Our passage this morning starts with the alarming words, "I am not speaking of all of you." Judas would throw away his very soul this night. John records the moments leading up to Satan taking over Judas never to let him free again. Judas had left the door of his heart open to evil. Satan entered in and locked the door behind him. Devil's Door.

18 "I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' **19** I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. **20** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me." **21** After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." **22** The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he

spoke. ²³ One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, ²⁴ so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. ²⁵ So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶ Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷ Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." ²⁸ Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹ Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰ So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

1. Divine Certainty (18-20)
2. Troubling Betrayal (21-26)
3. Satanic Dominion (27-30)

1. Divine Certainty (18-20)

¹⁸ I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' ¹⁹ I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.

The complete knowledge of Jesus—"I know whom I have chosen."

Jesus knew completely from the start every one of the men He had chosen to follow Him, even Judas the traitor.

John 6:66-71

66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. **67** So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" **68** Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, **69** and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." **70** Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." **71** He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

Jesus had divine insight into the very core of every human being, his thoughts, desires, and character. Only God has this level of insight.

John 2:23-25

23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. **24** But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people **25** and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

Jesus knows you better than you know yourself. A comfort and a warning.

Jeremiah 17:9-10

⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

¹⁰ "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

The certain fulfillment of Scripture—"But the Scripture will be fulfilled"

Psalm 41:9

Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

Jesus tells His disciples about the betrayal ahead of time to strengthen their faith.

"That . . . you may believe that I am he."

The defection of someone you trusted, even admired, can shake your faith. It's important for us to know ahead of time that such betrayals will happen.

God uses the same argument in Isaiah 45 to demonstrate that He is the only God and Savior. His accurate prediction of the future underscores not only that He is all-knowing, that that He is also all-powerful. When He predicts something, He has to power to make it happen.

Who Jesus proved Himself to be by His words and works (and supernatural knowledge) and what the Scriptures say lead us to faith in Jesus as the Messiah God has sent to save us.

This reliability of Christ and God's Word is the basis for the gospel we proclaim to all the world. If Christ and His word are not reliable, we have no gospel to preach. But since they are utterly trustworthy, we go forth to all the world with the good news, knowing that others can fully trust its reliability. It is backed by God Himself.

John 13:20

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.

Receives those Jesus sends
Receives Jesus whom God the Father sent
Receives God the Father

The opposite is also true—*if you reject the apostolic message of those Jesus commissioned to give the gospel to all the world, then you also reject Jesus who sent them. And you reject God who sent Jesus.* It is not just theoretical. It is personal. There is no neutral position.

Applications

- In what ways has the supernatural power of Jesus brought to life your own faith in Him?
- In what ways has the proven reliability of the Scriptures led you to faith in Christ?
- What about your life could suggest that you have resisted the unique power of Jesus and the clear prophetic testimony of God's Word?

2. Troubling Betrayal (21-26)

²¹ After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." ²² The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. ²³ One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, ²⁴ so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. ²⁵ So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶ Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.

Judas had become a master of faking devotion to Jesus. When Jesus announced that one of the disciples would betray Him, nobody suspected that Judas could be the one. Even when he leaves the group, they think he's just running an errand for Jesus.

Jesus has known from the start that Judas would turn traitor as the Scriptures have foretold, but that does not mean He did not care and He did not hurt because of it. He was deeply affected by the defection of Judas.

His soul was troubled—like the spiritual and emotional turmoil Zacharias experienced when Gabriel suddenly appeared to him to tell him about the coming birth of John the Baptist, or the terror the disciples experienced on the stormy sea when Jesus came to them walking on the water. The word is used for Jesus' anguish at the tomb of Lazarus.

Judas had repeated opportunity to repent. Imagine the impact of Jesus declaring in front of the group that one of them would betray him. That after washing the feet of every one of them. And then the gesture of friendship in giving Judas a morsel dipped in the sauce. You wonder if Judas could even look Jesus in the eye, knowing that Jesus knew exactly what Judas was about to do.

We know from John 21:20 that John himself was the one next to Jesus. He was the one Peter motioned to. So once Judas took the morsel of food Jesus offered, John knew as well that Judas was the traitor. In short time

the very name Judas will be synonymous with being a traitor.

Jesus said it best, as recorded in Matthew 26:24

The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.

What happens when you are suddenly aware your sin is known?

What happens when God shows you kindness despite your sin?

Both should lead you to repentance.

Romans 2:4

Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

Judas was among the most privileged human beings in all of human history. He had traveled close to Jesus the Messiah, God the Son, for over three years, going through intensive training with the rest of the apostles. He had heard God Himself preach. He had seen Him do miracles including raising the dead. He had himself preached and done miracles.

But the mission of Jesus was turning out to be very different from what Judas thought the

Messiah's kingdom would be like. It was not going to be a ticket to advancing a career, gaining power and popularity. It was looking more and more like washing dirty feet—slave labor. And it threatened to cost them everything including life itself.

Applications

- What about your own life do you think could be bringing sorrow to the heart of Jesus?
- When have you experienced the alarm of having a sin in your life confronted in some way?
- When have you experienced gracious kindness from God even while you were harboring some known evil in your heart?
- Since the best time to repent is the moment you know you are in the wrong, what do you know you need to repent from and confess right now before it is too late?

3. Satanic Dominion (27-30)

²⁷ Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." ²⁸ Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹ Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰ So,

after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

John 13:2 already noted that Satan had put into the heart of Judas to betray Jesus.

What do you do when Satan suggests to your heart what you know is wrong? Judas kept mulling it over, tucked away in his heart. Its poison progressed to the point that finally Satan took complete control of him. We are slaves to whomever we obey. Refusal to obey God is giving yourself over to God's adversary Satan. Many resist yielding to the authority of God while failing to consider how terrible the tyranny of Satan is.

Many think they are in control when they hold on to their sin rather than repenting. Not so. They only deepen their slavery to evil. Sin always costs you more than you want to pay and takes you further than you want to go.

Back in the early history of humanity God gave this warning to Cain:

Genesis 4:6-7

⁶ The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

When Judas leaves, everyone but John and possible Peter thinks that Judas is leaving to do some good deed. But Satan has entered into him and has full control. Judas left the door open too long. Now the day of opportunity is gone forever. Do not think that is always the day of a person's death. It can come well before that.

The episode ends with the haunting words, "And it was night." Not just that the sun had gone down on the material world, but that spiritual darkness now reigned. Judas was tangled up in the dark conspiracy of evil, human and satanic, to destroy Jesus.

But never forget what Jesus declared in John 10 that no one takes his life from him. He lays it down willingly and has full authority to take it up again. Or as John 1 put it—

John 1:5

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Jesus would not fail to accomplish His saving mission. Judas, the Pharisees, the chief priests, the temple guard, the Roman soldiers, and Satan himself could not thwart God's redemptive plan but would instead help bring it to pass. God is stronger than evil, light dispels darkness, life seizes the victory from the very jaws of death. Indeed, even death will one day be destroyed.

Applications

- What persons have you known ended up letting Satan take full control of their lives?
- Judging from the way you are living your life, who is your true master? (It's not you.)
- Whom do you want to serve, Satan or Christ, and what thoughts, words, actions, and patterns will you commit to pursue today in light of that choice?

Conclusion

Have you opened your heart to Jesus? Have you bowed the knee to Him in faith? Are you following Him as your Savior and Lord? Or has something or someone else taken His rightful place? Beware the Devil's Door.

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Communion

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