

Lighthouse Bible Church

February 23rd, 2014

John 13: 18 – 30 *Scripture Reading: Matthew 27: 3 - 10*

‘An Unbeliever in Disguise’

Stand – Read – Pray

We saw last time that while Jesus was in the upper room with His disciples He taught them a profound lesson in love and humility. And He did it because they were arguing amongst themselves who was the greatest and yet none were willing to humble themselves and wash one another's feet.

During the washing of the disciples feet, Jesus also taught them a valuable lesson on the one time spiritual bathing and cleansing from sin that Jesus alone can provide for salvation and the need for daily cleansing that comes through repentance and confession of sins as we walk through this world.

The ultimate lesson that Jesus wanted to teach them through this was the need to love one another to the point that they would be willing to humble themselves in service to others no matter how menial or degrading the task may be. Jesus ended by telling them that if He would stoop to the level of a slave to wash their feet then what should they do in love and humble service for one another.

And if it wasn't bad enough that Jesus convicted the hearts of the disciples through His act of humility, while they are arguing who is the greatest, Jesus shocks them by telling them that they are not all clean. And as a side note John says this one will betray Jesus. And so now Jesus begins to tell them who it is that will betray Him and why. And here we see the ultimate contrast between love and hatred, humility and selfishness, the Son of God and the devil incarnate.

When you hear the name Judas you don't associate it with anything good, as a matter of fact when he is mentioned in the gospels he always has the title 'the one who would betray him' or similar. The life of Judas is also a life that is very tragic and wasted because he is the example of lost opportunity. 3 years with Jesus and he turns his back on him and betrays him for money.

One writer said this “. For three years, day in and day out, he occupied himself with Jesus Christ. He saw the same miracles, he heard the same words, he performed some of the same ministries, he was esteemed in the same way the other disciples were esteemed, yet he did not become what the others became. In fact, he became the very opposite. He was the cleverest hypocrite that we ever read about in the Scriptures. Nobody ever suspected it. And while they were growing into true apostle-saints of God, he was progressively forming into a vile, calculating tool of Satan.” *MacArthur GTY John*

It is also a life that shows how depraved and wretched and vile and sinful he was inside; no matter how religious he was on the outside, that the devil himself would come in and use him as his instrument to destroy Jesus.

Remember in the chronology of things Judas, according to **Matthew 26: 14 – 16,** had already gone to the chief priests and agreed to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, the price of a slave. And now under the influence of the devil himself, Judas will carry out his plot. And think about it, while he is in the upper room at a meal with Jesus and His disciples, Judas is planning and plotting his betrayal.

So that is where we want to pick it up today.

Verse 18: I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me'.

Now Jesus begins to narrow down who the one is whom He said was not clean so He says **I do not speak concerning all of you.** Concerning all of you, My disciples, all of you are not clean, there is one who is not clean, there is one who will not know the blessings of obedience in humble service to others. There is one who will betray Me.

Jesus says this, in part, so it doesn't come as a surprise to the disciples when it happens. He wants them to know that He is in control of every part of every event leading up to His crucifixion, even in **choosing** the one who would betray Him.

He says the reason is, is because this was part of God's plan and prophecy written a long time ago about whom I would choose and what that person, whom I chose, would do in the master plan of God to bring Me to My death. He says Judas' betrayal was predicted and it is not a surprise to Me and I don't want it to be for your either. **So when it comes to pass Verse 19 says you will believe that I am He.**

Then Jesus quotes the scripture that He fulfilled in choosing Judas and the one Judas fulfilled in betraying Jesus. It is in **Psalm 41: 9** that says **even My own familiar friend in whom I trusted who ate My bread has lifted up his heel against Me.** *This is David and Ahithophel*

The reason Jesus chose Judas in the first place was to fulfill what the Scriptures said would happen because Judas was a necessary part of God's plan to bring about the death of His Son and bring redemption and forgiveness to mankind.

But that is not the only scripture that Jesus and Judas fulfilled. In **Psalm 55: 12 – 14, 20:** **for it is not an enemy who reproaches Me, then I could bear it. Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against Me, then I could hide from him. But it was you, a man My equal, My companion and My acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together and walked to the house of God in the throng.** Then He says in Verse 20.

He has put forth his hands against those who were at peace with him; he has broken his covenant. The words of his mouth were smoother than butter but war was in his heart, his words were softer than oil yet they were drawn swords. Doesn't that sound just like Judas.

In **Zechariah 11: 13** gives us another insight to the betrayal predicted by Judas against Jesus. It says **and the Lord said to me 'throw it to the potter that princely price they set on Me. So I took the 30 pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter.** We know this is in reference to Judas because **Matthew 27: 3 – 10** tells us that is what Judas did after Jesus was condemned to die and he quotes this same passage in Zechariah.

It was predestined by God from eternity past and long before Judas was born that he would betray Jesus in the sovereign plan of God. Jesus choosing Judas was not an accident, He didn't not know that this would happen, on the contrary, it was all in the plan of God and written in God's word to be fulfilled. *God's word exacting*

By the way as we have seen before and must see here as well, although God predestined Judas to be the betrayer, it was not apart from Judas' own desire to betray Him. Even though Judas' betrayal fits into the plan of God, Judas chose for himself the path of betrayal. He was not coerced, he was not manipulated, he acted on his own, in line with God's sovereign plan and will be held accountable for his betrayal.

One writer put it this way "God did not plan Judas' wretchedness, but He planned Judas' wretchedness into His plan. God didn't make Judas wretched. He took Judas, wretched as he was, and fitted him into His plan. Somebody had to bring about the death of Christ. This wretched man, by his own desire, evil as it was, was fitted into God's plan, and to make it happen. Judas Iscariot, then, was the chosen instrument of God, not apart from his own desire or his own will, to betray Christ and bring about His death." *MacArthur GTY John*. But what men mean for evil, what, God means for good and in this case salvation and redempt.

A sobering reminder for us today that someone can be close to God and Christ and yet still be lost in their sin and damned forever in hell. Because they never believed to the point of repenting and placing their faith and trust in Jesus alone for their salvation from sin and death. They depended on their religious practices and good works rather than on the finished work of Jesus on the cross.

There can be, and are among believers today, those who are hypocrites posing as believers to destroy the testimony of Christ and His church and His people. They are influenced by the devil as we have seen. They are the ones Paul talks about in **2nd Corinthians 11: 13 – 15**, they are the ones that Jesus gives the parable about in **Matthew 13: 24 – 30** in the parable of the wheat and the tares.

So Jesus tells them in **Verse 19** **now I tell you before it comes that when it does come to pass you may believe that I am He.** He doesn't want them to think that this betrayal is a surprise, but that it is in the plan of God and so that you **may believe that I am *HE*.** The He is in italics. He is saying that you will believe that I am the I am, that I am God. Then look at Verse 20

Verse 20: most assuredly I say to you; he who receives whomever I send receives Me and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.

Jesus says 'listen, when this betrayal happens don't let it stop you from what I have called you to do and that is to go into all the world and preach the gospel as apostles, as sent ones for Me'.

You could read it this way 'most assuredly I say to you **he**, whoever he may be, who receives **whomever** of you disciples I send, receives Me and when that person receives Me, he receives Him who sent Me and that is My Father.'

The tendency for the disciples would be to be discouraged and think it is all over when the betrayal happens but Jesus says, I am telling you this ahead of time so when it does happen you will know that it is in God's plan and because of that, you have a commission from Me to share with the lost and those who receive your message about Me will receive Me and My Father.

And for us today it is the same, we become the 'whomever'; no matter what opposition we face from the evil one or how difficult the circumstances or how frustrating or tiring the work may become, we have a commission from God to go into all the world and preach the gospel. As a matter of fact **2nd Corinthians 5: 20** says that **we are ambassadors for Christ as though God were pleading through us...**

And whoever receives you and the gospel you share, receives Jesus Christ and the Father who sent Him. You become the representative of Christ. And whoever rejects you and the gospel of Jesus Christ rejects Jesus and the Father as well. Jesus says 'you have an important ministry, don't let this betrayal sway you from doing what I have called you to do'.

This is really a good example of the church today. There are within the churches of our day hypocrites posing as believers and there are believers living and acting as representatives of Christ. And when someone comes along and says I won't go to that church because there are hypocrites in there. Well, guess what, there are hypocrites in every church, there are the wheat and the tares together. You still have a high calling like the disciples to be an ambassador for Christ and not worry about the hypocrite, just do what God has called you to. Wherever there is true disciples and truth being taught, there will be tares as Jesus said in **Matthew 13: 24 – 30** with the parable of the wheat and tares.

The disciples had no idea about Judas until his hypocrisy was revealed, but Christ new. And He knows those today, even in this church, who may be living a hypocritical religious life.

We may not know but He does and we are not called to find them out, we are called to the great commission of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and they will be revealed in God's timing and in His way.

Verse 21 when Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit and testified and said 'most assuredly I say to you, one of you will betray Me'.

Jesus then makes it very clear that one of **you**, one of you 12 would betray Me. He was **troubled in spirit** for a myriad of reasons; for Himself and what He was about to face, for the betrayal by a familiar friend whose feet He had just washed, for the disciples and their anxiety and fear for what is about to happen.

That word **troubled** is the same word used back in John 12: 27 and is a very strong word that means, to agitate, to disturb, to stir up, to strike one's spirit with fear, to be anxious, to be distressed. These are all the emotions that Jesus is feeling as He is preparing to go to the cross and in revealing His betrayer to His disciples. Then look at how the disciples respond in Verse 22.

Verse 22: then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke.

I'm sure the disciples hearts sank when they heard that one of them would be the betrayer and so they **look at one another**, trying to figure out who it could be. Can you imagine what would be racing around in their minds, trying to think back on a time or situation where they can identify who it could be.

It says they were **perplexed** *aporeao* which means to be in doubt, to be at a loss, to not know how to decide. They had no idea who Jesus was talking about, which gives you a good indication of the hypocrisy that Judas was able to carry out undetected.

The interesting thing is; in the parallel passage in **Matthew 26: 20 – 25** that when Jesus said that 'one of you will betray Me' they all began to say '**is it I**'.

And in **Luke 22: 23** it says **they began to question among themselves which of them it was who would do this thing.** You know what they don't say 'it is Judas'. And of course, Judas has to say 'is it I' as well, to keep up the charade because he had the behavior of a saint but the heart of a sinner. And this also says something about Jesus and His love for Judas. He doesn't treat Him any different or love Him any less than any of the other disciples, as far as they can tell. So they finally ask Jesus. Look at Verses 23 – 24

Verses 23 – 24: now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke. Then, leaning back on Jesus' breast he said to Him 'Lord who is it?'

This is a beautiful picture of John, who always describes himself as the **disciple who Jesus loved**, leaning on the chest of Jesus as they reclined at the table for the meal. *Describe.* So Peter motions to him to ask Jesus who it was He was talking about. So John leans close to Jesus and asks Him **Lord who is it?** Jesus gives them the answer in Verses 26 – 27.

Verses 26 – 27: Jesus answered 'it is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it' and having dipped the bread He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.

Apparently Jesus' answer to John was not in the hearing of the others because when Judas does leave they don't know why **Verse 28 - 29** says. **No one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him for some thought because Judas had the money box that Jesus had said to him 'buy those things we need for the feast or that he should give something to the poor.**

Jesus tells John who it is by telling him that **the one whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it** he is the one.

And by the way, Jesus dipped the unleavened bread in, what some of your version may say as ‘sop’ s.o.p. It is a pasty, liquid mixture of bitter herbs, vinegar, water, salt, crushed dates, figs and raisins. *Some of you have had it before.* And to give a bite of dipped bread to someone by the host, in this case Jesus, would be a way of honoring him.

And since it appears that John was on the right side of Jesus, because they would typically recline of their left side being able to use their right hands, and because Jesus was so readily able to feed the bread to Judas, Judas must have been on His immediate left, which is the place of honor at the table.

So Jesus gives this bread to Judas as a sign of honor and love to him but in this case it is also a way of letting John know who the betrayer is. *It is a double edged sword by what Jesus did.* Then we read a most frightening verse in Verse 27

Verse 27 now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him ‘what you do, do quickly’.

Remember that earlier in **John 13: 2** Satan had put it into the heart of Judas to betray Jesus. Now Satan not only influenced Judas but is now entering Him so that Judas will do his bidding. This reminds me of the anti-Christ in **Revelation 13: 1 – 8** where Satan, the Devil, the serpent of old, empowers him to demand worship of himself and the Devil and blasphemes and kills Christians who will not.

At this moment in time you have God in human form and you have Satan in human form. Jesus has given Judas every opportunity to repent and receive His love and he refuses; so much so that Satan is able to enter him and control what he is about to do. So that is why Jesus says **what you do, do quickly.**

Judas passed the point of grace and was dismissed to an eternity in hell. As Jesus said 'it would have been better for that person if he had not been born'. He says What you do, do quickly. The interesting thing is; Jesus is telling Judas, and Satan, to do what Judas and Satan want to do. He is in agreement with their plan but for an entirely different reason and the resurrection will be that reason.

And when Jesus says that to Judas, as we saw in Verses 28 – 29, the rest of them were not sure why He said that. I don't know if John knew why or if Peter knew why but none of the rest of them did. They thought Jesus said 'what you do, do quickly, meant for him, because he had the money box, to go buy something or give something to the poor. But it was the commission of Christ to allow Satan, through Judas, to accomplish his plan to kill Jesus.

Verse 30: Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately and it was night.

Maybe Judas thought that he was exposed by what had just taken place so he gets up from the table and goes out into the night. Into the physical night where the sun is down, but more importantly, into the spiritual night where there is no more light. Remember what Jesus said in **John 12: 35 walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you.** Darkness had overtaken Judas.

Isn't that how hell is described? **Matthew 8: 12** and many other places says it is **outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.** So Judas leaves, empowered by Satan to carry out the plot that the Jews had planned months and years ago, that Satan had planned 33 years ago, but that God had planned from eternity past.

Let me close by reading this passage of scripture in **Acts 26: 18.** This is the commission Paul has from Jesus and it is to **open the eyes of unbelievers in order to turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God that they may receive forgiveness of sins...**

That is the same commission that we have today. To share the gospel light of Jesus Christ with a dark world under the sway of the devil. Because:

There are Judas' today that have sat under the teaching of the Word of God and have heard all about who Jesus is and yet they reject Him and continue to live in their religious hypocrisy and deceit.

There are Judas' today who love money more than everlasting life. They are like those of **1st Timothy 6: 9 – 10** where it says **those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.** Judas did it for 30 pieces of silver.

Judas is living proof that the love of Jesus extends even to the most hard hearted person. Judas is also living proof that Satan will always be at work among God's people just like the parable of the wheat and tares.

Finally, Judas is living proof that nothing can thwart or change the sovereign plan of God. His Word is absolute truth, without error and will come to pass just as it is written. What may seem to be a victory for the devil in the crucifixion of Jesus turns out to be a victory for Christ at His resurrection and defeat of sin and Satan.

So we have a message to tell the lost.

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Introduction and Review:

Matthew 26: 14 – 16

Verses 18 – 19:

Psalm 41: 9, Psalm 55: 12 – 14, 20

Zechariah 11: 13, Matthew 27: 3 – 10

2nd Corinthians 11: 13 – 15, Matthew 13: 24 – 30

Verse 20:

2nd Corinthians 5: 20

Verses 21 – 22:

John 12: 27, Matthew 26: 20 – 25, Luke 22: 23

Verses 23 – 29:

John 13: 2, Revelation 13: 1 – 8

Verse 30:

John 12: 35, Matthew 8: 12, Acts 26: 18

1st Timothy 6: 9 - 10

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