

## The Wounded Christ

January 9, 2022

John 13: 18-30 (ESV)

*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.*

It is said that the Roman Emperor, Julius Caesar, was assassinated by a group of his senators. And one of them who had stabbed Caesar was called Brutus. Shakespeare who had written the play *Julius Caesar* dramatized the assassination by famously writing the phrase "You too, Brutus?". Caesar was surprised to see his close associate Brutus kill him. So, you see Caesar was betrayed by one of his own.

Today, we come to a passage that is sobering. One of Jesus's own leaves him to betray him. Now, unlike Caesar, Jesus is not surprised by Judas who had been planning and plotting to betray him. Jesus knew that Judas was given over to the desires of the devil.

We are in this discipleship series called '*Preparing for the Cross*' learning from Jesus' time with his disciples. Last week we saw how Jesus modeled humility for his disciples. Today we will see his grieved and troubled heart.

Continuing from last week, we saw Jesus knew the hour had come to leave this world. Jesus also knew he would be betrayed by one of his own.

*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."*

So in verses 18-21, Jesus transitions from washing the disciples feet to teaching them to talking about his betrayal. And this is not the first Jesus talks about his betrayal. There was one occasion when the people who had been following Jesus stopped following him when they hear Jesus say he was the Bread of Life. So, Jesus turns to Peter and asks him if he will abandon him as well. Peter is rather affected by the words of Jesus and says "where can we go, you have the words of eternal life?". To that Jesus says "*have I not chosen you twelve and one of you is a devil?*" Jesus does not mean Judas is literally the devil but he was taken over by the devil's agenda. This was in John 6.

In John 11, you also saw Judas' deceptive behavior when he criticized Mary using an expensive perfume to anoint the feet of Jesus. Until now, the rest of the disciples thought Judas was concerned about the poor. But he actually was a thief. Jesus tells Judas to leave Mary alone.

And here at the last supper, Jesus tells his disciples one last time that one of the twelve will turn against

him. This man will turn against his Maker his Giver his provider. In verse 18, Jesus quotes Psalm 41 verse 9. King David in his own time experienced treachery and betrayal from the people he had trusted. David's son Absalom turned against him. And David's counselor Ahithophel also conspired against. Similarly, Jesus sees this verse as the fulfillment of his betrayal.

*Now, why does Jesus have to say this at the last supper?*

Well, Jesus gives the reason in verse 19. Jesus says he is telling his disciples that they would believe that he is who he says he is. The word Jesus used in verse 19 is "I am". Jesus has used this phrase before a few times. Before Abraham I am. I am he who he is speaking to you as he spoke to the Samaritan woman. This is important because even at this supper time, the disciples had not yet fully comprehended how Jesus would die.

To the disciples Jesus was like a celebrity and being with him made them mini-celebrities.

Do you ever wonder why people want to take pictures with celebrities? Maybe to feel a sense of prominence or greatness. That's how these disciples felt. People would have to come to them to get to Jesus. The Greeks came to Philip to ask to see Jesus. Some of disciples were vying for the best seats to sit next to Jesus in heaven. The mother of James and John had a peculiar request for Jesus asking him that his two sons be granted very prominent seating. There was one time Jesus was rejected in a village and you what James and John asked Jesus? They said if they should bring down fire from heaven. So, all this talk about betrayal and death made them very uncomfortable. And, Peter even thought that he could dissuade Jesus to go to the cross. When Jesus said that "*the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again*". (Mark 8:31)

And how did Peter react to that news?

Peter stood Jesus aside and began to rebuke him.

And Jesus has some strong words for Peter in his response.

<sup>33</sup>*But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."* Mark 8:33

You see, Jesus is showing his disciples that the way to true greatness is true humility. If you had to introduce Jesus to a stranger, what would you say? So much of today's Gospel is like "come to Jesus if you need an upgrade in your job, a better car, a better house, a better this or that". But, Jesus himself said that "*whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's sake will save it*" (Mark 8:35). The Savior we must present is a humble rejected and a suffering Savior. That is the only Jesus there is. That is why in verse 20, Jesus says "*whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me*". Meaning the Jesus the disciples must proclaim is the one betrayed, rejected by sinful men.

What was the purpose of his rejection? He was rejected so that those who *repent* and *trust* in him will never be condemned. This world is already condemned. Jesus came into this condemned world to save it.

And this rejection was not easy for Jesus. Jesus was *troubled* in his spirit.

*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."*

The preacher from London Charles Spurgeon commenting on this verse said "*The kiss of the traitor wounded our Lord's heart as much as the nail wounded his hand*".

Jesus was *pained, hurt and grieved* by what Judas was going to do. Judas sat in all the discipleship meetings with the rest of his fellow disciples. Judas was entrusted with the finances. He heard Jesus teach, preach and saw him perform wonders and signs. He saw Jesus weep when Mary and Martha were going through the loss of their brother Lazarus. All Judas did was receive from Jesus. Even at this supper, he heard Jesus say these words to Peter "unless I wash you, you have no part of me". And yet Judas was

indifferent, cold, hardened and unmoved. Not only was he indifferent, he was ready to sell him out for 30 pieces of silver.

All the way back in the book of Genesis, we similar picture of God's heart when he saw mankind turning against him. So much that God felt sorry that he made man. God was so grieved because he saw the thoughts of man were continually wicked.

Now all this was new information to the rest of the disciples. And they were very unsettled by what Jesus had shared.

Let look at verses 22 through 26.

*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."*

Can you imagine the look on the disciples' faces? They were looking at each other. They react in disbelief and shock. This was very difficult for them to process. So, Peter again is the first to inquire asks the disciple who is next to Jesus.

It is very likely that this disciple who reclined at Jesus' side was John the author of this Gospel. John has a question about the identity of the betrayer. And Jesus tells him. The one who received bread from him. And he is things from bad to worse in a permanent way. What unfolds next is so distressing and sinister. And the disciples have no clue what was going on except for three people. Jesus, Judas and Satan. And the author John later understood what really happened. So he wrote this account.

Verses 27 through 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.*

Can you imagine a place that is dark, dreadful and vile? A place that is filled with all kinds of evil beings. A place that reeks of the smell of sulfur that is so awful. A place so evil that all that these evil beings think, talk about and do is things like lies, murder, violence, stealing, cursing, lust, hatred, betrayal, deception, greed, selfishness, idolatry and what have you. And the intent of these beings is to only inflict fear, pain, misery and anguish on others. And that dark world has a leader, a prince. His name is Satan. He is the father of lies, a murderer, destroyer and constantly looking for whom he may kill. And that's the evil being who entered into Judas.

Do you know that it is not just Judas that Satan was attempting to infiltrate and agitate?

In Luke 22:31 Jesus tells Simon Peter about Satan's plan.

I am reading from the NASB again – *"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded to sift you men like wheat; but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail"*.

It was not just Peter that Satan wanted to disturb. The "you" is plural. He wanted to get to all of them. But Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil.

So here faithless Judas gave into the devil and his desires. He became an evil weapon and weaponized Satan. What Judas intended to do is now final. That's why Jesus said "what you are going to do, do it quickly".

So here, on one hand you have Jesus, the Holy, pure, spotless, sinless Son of God. And on the other hand, you have Satan and Judas who has given himself over to the devil. And rest of the disciples are clueless. They think Jesus is sending Judas out to buy provisions for the feast of the Passover.

Verse 30 tells summarizes what Judas does.

After receiving the bread, he left immediately left. And it was night.

Why do you think the author wrote these words “it was night?”

Night is symbolic of dark and evil deeds. Satan thrives in darkness.

In the gospel of Luke, when Judas brought the religious leaders came to arrest Jesus, he himself said in Luke 22:53 *“When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness”*

You know there came a point before Jesus went to cross, he felt the burden and weight of all this betrayal and treachery and mocking too much for his innocent human body. So he prayed *“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done”*.

Jesus was wounded in his spirit and in his body as well. And it is only by his wounds we are made well.

How are we to live in light of this portion of Scripture?

There is a passage that Paul uses in 2 Corinthians chapter 2. Here is how Paul says it

*“that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs”* 2 Corinthians 2:11

Jesus wants you to be alert and vigilant against the designs of Satan.

What is the safest place to not be outwitted by Satan?

Verse 23 tells us the one of his disciples leaned next to Jesus.

This is how the NASB translates this verse.

*“Lying back on Jesus’ chest was one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved”* John 13:23 (NASB)

*“Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved”* (KJV)

As I said this is very likely John the author of this Gospel. He was loved by Jesus. And he leaned on the bosom of Jesus. What a picture of fellowship!

There is a song that describes this fellowship with Jesus. Therein lies our safety.

Close to the heart of Jesus,  
Close to His wounded side,  
Sheltered from every danger  
Here I will ever abide.

Refrain:

Close to the heart of Jesus,  
Nearer to Him each day,  
Listening to every whisper,  
Gladly I’ll Him obey;  
Close to the heart of Jesus,  
O what a resting place!  
Here will I ever linger  
Until I see His face.

----- Discipleship Questions -----

MESSAGE SUMMARY: The Wounded Christ John 13:18-30

HEAD: These questions help you examine the truth of God's Word.

1. Read verse 21 – “*Jesus was troubled in his spirit*”? Why was Jesus troubled or grieved? Go around and share. John 12:27-28,

HEART: These questions help you wrestle with what you believe.

2. In spite of your falling short of God's standard, do you believe that by the wounds of Jesus, you have been made whole? How? Romans 5:8-9, 1 Peter 2:24
3. What is God convicting you of and to believe in light of this message?

HANDS/HABITS: These questions help you bring the truth into your everyday life and develop behaviors that change your habits.

4. For personal reflection: What are some ways the Bible tells us to be alert and vigilant against the schemes of the devil? Ephesians 4:13-14, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, Luke 1:76-77