

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to John 13

We are continuing our verse by verse study through the Gospel of John

We began chapter thirteen last week – which means we are about 15 hours from the cross.

And I mentioned last week that John spends a quarter of his gospel recording the words that Jesus spoke to the disciples in the upper room for 6 hours.

It begins in the upper room where Jesus and His disciples are celebrating the Feast of Passover and where He gives them one last teaching before His crucifixion.

Jesus teaches His disciples a lesson in humility.

And He begins to wash their dirty stinky feet.

They had been arguing about which of them was going to be the greatest in the Kingdom.

So, Jesus girds Himself with a towel and washes their feet teaching them that true greatness in God's eyes is measured, not in terms of authority—but in terms of humility.

And if they were truly His disciples then they must follow His example and be servants of all—

even as Jesus Himself had been to them.

“The Son of Man has not come to be served but to serve and give His life a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28) – This statement that Jesus made summed up not only His ministry but His entire life.

And I made the point last week that what Jesus did that night – it had nothing to do with the washing of feet – but it was to provide His disciples a taste of the ultimate humiliation that He was about to face – at the cross.

And so, while the Lord is teaching His disciples this important and powerful lesson in humility —

His thoughts suddenly shift to the one person in the room who was not a true disciple—and who never had been.

A man who would never follow the Lord's example of humility but instead has become, for all time, the ultimate example of hypocrisy—Judas!

Let's pray...

Before we get into our text in John

I want you to turn your bibles with me to Matt 13

I want to provide insight on what we are going to see in our text this morning in practicality

In Matt 13, Jesus provides a teaching / parable to His audience and us.

And He uses a very familiar picture for those listening at the time

[Mat 13:24-30 NKJV] 24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 "but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 "But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 "So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' 28 "He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' 29 "But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 'Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' "

Jesus is teaching the audience how the Kingdom of God is going to expand rapidly by having good seed sown –

Earlier in the chapter, Jesus explained to us in the parable of the sower that the good seed is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

When someone responds to the gospel – the kingdom of God grows – just like everyone here today

However, there is opposition from the enemy – and the enemy tries to ruin the kingdom of God by going around at night and sowing bad seed / tares

These tares grow side by side with the wheat – they look identical to the wheat

The only difference is toward the end of the harvest where the wheat will develop the kernels while the tares will not.

This has been the enemy's greatest tactic – and one that is still used today

Instead of attacking from the outside – the attacks come from within.

These tares bring trouble, they bring discouragement, they bring dissent, within the church

The problem with identifying these tares is that it is hard to identify them because they talk the right way, they have the right appearance – so it poses a difficulty to the church

Jesus says, the tares will be among you – don't be surprised by it

So it is of the most utmost importance that we keep our eyes always focused on the Lord

Judgement is coming – and one day the tares will become evident.

Now, the reason we looked at the parable of the wheat and the tares is because Judas becomes a great example of a tare.

There are only two people who knew he was a tare –

Jesus and Judas.

The other eleven disciples – no clue.

For three and a half years Judas walked among them

And here, Jesus is going to point out the tare.

[Jhn 13:18-30 NKJV] 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.'

In our study last week, as Jesus began washing the feet of the disciples – you may remember that when Jesus came to Peter, Peter said, “no way”

And Jesus replied to Peter, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.”

Peter, in order to belong to Me, you must allow me to serve you through the cross

And Peter responds – well then give me a bath

[Jhn 13:10 NKJV] 10 Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash [his] feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you."

That is what Jesus is talking about here in verse 17

Peter didn't need a bath, the other 10 disciples didn't need a bath – all they needed was a foot washing

Judas, however, needed a bath – Jesus knew his heart

Jesus knew Judas was going to betray Him.

He knew He was a tare.

He knew Judas was not saved because he didn't believe.

And therefore, Jesus proceeds to quote from Psalm 41 – one of David's Psalms

Now, when you read Psalm 41 – David is speaking about Ahithophel, one of his close advisors – who betrayed him and began to advise Absalom (his son) on how to kill him.

However, it was prophetic about Jesus and Judas

You see, Ahithophel becomes a picture of Judas in the OT

He betrayed his close friend

He plotted to have his friend killed

And ultimately he also died in the same manner that Judas did – hang himself.

Now, there is a very important reason why Jesus quotes from Psalm 41

Think about this – Jesus is going to be betrayed by someone who walked with Him for 3.5 years.

One of the reasons that betrayal is so painful is because – it is unexpected.

It is a tremendous punch to the gut

So the reason that Jesus quotes from the scriptures is because He didn't want His disciples to think that Judas' betrayal took Him by surprise.

But rather He wanted them to know that what Judas was about to do was foreknown by God—in eternity past!

1000 years before Jesus tabernacled with us, we would all know that Judas' betrayal of Jesus was in the plan of God for the redemption of mankind from the beginning.

19 "Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am [He]."

In just a few hours, the disciples' world would be turned upside down.

It would begin with Judas' betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Jesus warned them ahead of time so that when the time came, they wouldn't think that somehow He'd lost control of the situation.

Even in His arrest and all that followed, they were to see His glory.

His torture and death were not to shake their faith or confidence in Him.

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."

In the Gospel of Matthew, it is recorded that early in His ministry, Jesus sends out His disciples (including Judas) out to evangelize to the lost.

When it became clear that Judas was never a true disciple (not saved), who eventually betrayed Jesus,

There would be people who got saved under Judas' ministry saying—

"If he was a fake Christian, a phony disciple—what does that make me!?"

Can I even be saved if a tare, if a wicked deceiver like Judas preached the gospel to me!?"

Here is the thing to remember church, the power to bring forth new life resides in the Word of God (the gospel) and not in the one who shares it. —just like the power to bring forth wheat resides in the seed and not in the sower.

Judas went out and people responded to the gospel. Not because he was Judas – but because he had given the message.

God will bless His Word.

[Rom 10:17 NKJV] 17 So then faith [comes] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

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." 22 Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke.

Whenever we watch a miniseries or movie of the gospels – one of the errors that is always made is that Judas is always depicted as the black sheep.

You can watch the movie or miniseries on mute with no subtitles and Judas always stands out.

He is always the ugly one, the one that looks like he hasn't bathed in weeks, the one with the angry look on his face

When Jesus said, "One of you will betray Me," we would picture the disciples nodding to each other with a quick awareness that Jesus is referring to Judas – I mean, who else would it be?

But that is not at all their reaction.

They're stunned & can't figure out who it could be?

There had been nothing in Judas' behavior that signaled he was a traitor

In fact, in Matthew's gospel, it is recorded that the disciples were exceedingly sorrowful and they began ask Jesus, "Is it I?"

23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. 24 Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke. 25 Then, leaning back on Jesus' breast, he said to Him, "Lord, who is it?"

One of the things we have to understand about the what is happening here in verse 23-25 is that unlike what is depicted in Leonardo da Vinci painting – where Jesus is sitting in the middle of a long table with His disciples – Jesus and His disciples would be eating on a U shaped table and the disciples would have been reclining on the floor.

Jesus, as the guest of honor, would most likely be sitting at the U portion of the table.

And through these verses, we know that the Apostle John would be sitting at His right side – they would rest on their left elbows to eat with their right hand.

So John's head would be next to the chest of Jesus

Peter is not on the left or the right of Jesus – he is trying to signal to John to ask Jesus who the betrayer is –

Now, what is not obvious at first glance but apparent as you study the text is that the person reclining directly behind Jesus at the table—was – tan tan tan - Judas.

This means that, as John's head was near Jesus' chest—Jesus' head was near Judas' chest.

How do we know that—several clues make this clear.

First of all, Judas had to be close enough to Jesus for Him (Jesus) to speak to him without the other disciples hearing it.

26 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. 27 Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."

Apparently, the Lord said this quietly enough so that only the person directly in front of Him (John) and the person directly behind Him (Judas)—actually heard what He said.

Interestingly, in the Matthew's gospel, it is recorded that when Judas received the dipped bread, he responds, "Rabbi, is it I?"

And Jesus responded, "You have said it"

One of the things we must consider

The place where Judas was reclining that night, right behind Jesus (the Host) where Jesus' head was near Judas' chest—was the place of highest honor in that culture, reserved for the most intimate friend.

In Jewish culture no person could just choose to recline there of their own accord—they had to be invited to recline there by the host.

In other words—Jesus had invited Judas to recline there next to Him in the place of honor

Also, to offer a person the bread after it had been dipped as Jesus did for Judas, was in that culture a sign of the deepest friendship—equivalent to toasting someone in our culture.

It's hard to understand what Jesus is doing here,

Why would Jesus do all of that knowing Judas was about to betray Him?

I believe Jesus did it to communicate to Judas that He loved him and was, even at this late hour, giving him a chance to change his mind and not go thru with his betrayal (and rejection) of Jesus.

I believe Jesus was treating Judas this way to show him how much the Lord loved him so that he would be convicted and brought to the point of repentance.

It's as if Jesus was saying to Judas, "I still want to be your friend / I still want to be your Savior—it's not too late, but this is your last chance.

He is extending His love and grace to the very end.

That is why I believe that back in verse 21, where we find the statement that Jesus was troubled in spirit – it was because He knew where Judas was going to spend eternity.

Last week, we saw in verse two that Satan had put it into the heart of Judas to betray Jesus

But now, after having rejected Jesus' continual, open love, Judas opens himself up to complete Satanic possession.

This is how we know Judas wasn't a believer

Because I believe as a believer, we cannot be demon possessed.

We can certainly be oppressed – but not possessed.

[1Jo 4:4 NKJV] 4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Who is the One in us?

The Holy Spirit.

Who is the one in the world? Satan and his demons.

Therefore, the believer has overcome the world of demons, and the case for demon possession of a believer cannot be made scripturally.

28 But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him. 29 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. 30 Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.

Something triggered in Judas at the moment Jesus handed him the dipped bread.

Whatever debate may have been going on in him was now over.

Maybe he'd been toying with the idea of bailing on his plan to turn Jesus over to the authorities.

But something pushed Him irrevocably away from the Lord.

Jesus had just washed his feet, Jesus had put him in the place of honor at the table – and here we see Judas' reaction

He ran out the door to betray Jesus

Church, we should be surprised by Judas' reaction.

You see, The goodness of God leads the saved to repentance.

But it leads the lost to further depths of depravity.

Turn with me to Romans 2

[Rom 2:4-6 NKJV] 4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? 5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who "will render to each one according to his deeds":

The battle over Judas' will ended when he decided to press on with his plan to betray the Lord.

The statement "it was night" indicates the time of day – but we know that because the Passover was observed during the evening –

I believe that it means that Judas had now passed the spiritual point of 'no return'.

There was no longer any hope for Judas to repent and be saved—

the opportunity was over; the day of God's grace had come to an end—

the night of eternal darkness had begun and would culminate in the outer darkness of hell forever.

God's Spirit will not always strive with man—there comes a point in every unbeliever's life when they have rejected Jesus and the light of the gospel so much—that God withdraws His offer of salvation and they are sentenced to eternal darkness.

Judas loved darkness rather than light – and now, as Jude tells us “there is reserved for him the blackness of darkness forever.” (Jude 1:13)

Today is the day of salvation—but the night is coming when it will be too late to receive Jesus as your Savior.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, “I am a sinner.”

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

CALVARY
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Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I

accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

