

Jesus Announces His Betrayal

John 13:21-30

April 23, 2023

1. Jesus' Prophecy of a Betrayer (21-22)
 - a. The setting of Jesus' prophecy – "When Jesus had thus said" (21a)
 - i. Jesus had just washed His disciples' feet, picturing the cleansing that was available to those who had been bathed as His disciple.
 - ii. Jesus had just said that all His disciples were clean, except one.
 - b. Jesus' emotional state – "He was troubled in spirit" (21b)
 - i. Jesus was "troubled" in His Spirit, indicating a very strong emotion.
 - ii. Jesus was "troubled" previously by the unbelief of His disciples just prior to the resurrection of Lazarus.
 - c. Jesus' terrifying prophecy – "And testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me" (21c)
 - i. Jesus exposes the actions of His betrayer before addressing His betrayer.
 - ii. Jesus had just prophesied that one who eats bread with Him has lifted up his heel against Him (cf. 18).
 - d. The disciples' voiceless response – "Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake" (22).
 - i. The disciples have no words to form a response, and instead begin looking from one to the next.
 - ii. The Synoptics make it clear that the disciples are looking around the room with great sorrow and introspection.
 - iii. In this moment they are very aware of their shortcomings and their capacity for such a sin.
2. Jesus' Dialogue with the Beloved Disciple (23-24)
 - a. The Beloved Disciple was one of Jesus' disciples – "Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples" (23a).
 - b. The Beloved Disciple was the ideal disciple with intimate access to Jesus – "Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom" (23b).
 - c. The Beloved Disciple had an intimate relationship with Jesus – "whom Jesus loved" (23c).
 - i. John is not the only one that Jesus loved because Jesus loves all His disciples (cf. 13:1).
 - ii. As the ideal disciple, the relationship with Jesus that John possessed serves to portray the loving relationship that exists between Jesus and His disciples (cf. 15:13; 1 John 3:1-2).
 - d. The Beloved disciple possessed a close relationship with Peter – "Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake" (24).
 - i. John accompanied Peter to Jesus' trial before Caiaphas, the high priest (cf. 18:15).
 - ii. John accompanied Peter to the empty tomb (cf. 20:2).
 - iii. John accompanied Peter to go fishing after Jesus' resurrection (cf. 20:7).
 - iv. John and Peter's relationship was so close that words were not necessary.
3. The Entrance of Satan and Departure of Judas (25-30)
 - a. John asks the question that all were thinking – "He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it?" (25).
 - i. John's posture shows his trust in his Master.
 - ii. John's question shows his trust in his Master.
 - b. Jesus exposes His betrayer – "Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it..." (26).
 - i. Jesus exposes His betrayer with His actions without using his name.
 - ii. Just as the Beloved Disciple is the model disciple, Judas is the model for unbelief, deceit, fakery, disunity, and betrayal.
 - c. Jesus demonstrates His authority in His interaction with Judas – "And after the sop Satan entered into him. The said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly" (27).

- i. Satan could not enter Judas until Jesus allowed it.
 - ii. Judas could not betray Jesus until Jesus released him.
 - iii. As Jesus said earlier, “No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father” (10:18).
- d. The disciples misunderstood what had just transpired – “Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him. For some of them thought because Judas had the bag, that Jesus said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor” (28-29).
 - i. The disciples were completely unaware of the meaning of Jesus’ actions.
 - ii. They saw it as nothing more than Jesus giving Judas some food to carry with him on an unknown errand.
 - iii. They suspected that since Judas was the treasurer of the group that Jesus had sent him to buy food for the Passover feast or to give some money to the poor.
 - iv. As the treasurer of the group, Judas held the position of highest trust, and the disciples treated him as such.
- e. Judas takes the bread and immediately disappears into the night – “He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night” (30).
 - i. Judas knowingly takes the bread and exits immediately on his diabolical errand.
 - 1. At this point, Judas has made a choice that will take him farther than he ever expected to go.
 - 2. In yielding himself to the devil, he is now an instrument in the hand of the wicked one; he has made his choice, but he cannot choose the consequences of those choices.
 - ii. Judas had plunged himself into darkness, a darkness that would soon shroud the Son of God Himself.
 - iii. The remaining disciples get to bask in the light of Jesus’ presence.
 - iv. Now that Jesus has dismissed the outsider, He can now continue with His farewell discourse which will prepare His little flock for living in the light of His presence through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Conclusion:

1. As a Beloved Disciple, you share immediate access and intimate closeness to Christ. Are you cultivating intimate fellowship with Christ?
2. While believers cannot be indwelt by the devil, they can yield themselves as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin. Are you yielding yourself as an instrument of unrighteousness through hypocrisy and deception?