

The Gospel of John: That You May Believe The Announcement of a Betrayal

John 13:18-30
Sunday, July 30, 2017

Introduction

As we have worked our way through the Gospel of John we have considered a lot of different moments in the life and ministry of Jesus. But as we come to this passage, this may be one of the most pivotal scenes that we have considered up to this point – Jesus announces His betrayal and releases Judas to do what he must.

As we consider this incredible scene it serves as more than a progression of the story, it also serves to teach us. Through this account we have a chance to see more fully the beauty of Christ and also the depth of our own depravity as we battle against sin and Satan.

Context

As we come to this text we are in the middle of a larger story. Jesus has just washed the feet of His disciples and now He is using that as an entry point to tell them of His rejection: “Not all of you are clean.”

What Judas’ Betrayal Reveals To Us About Jesus

- **The Deity of Jesus:** Through the betrayal we are given a reminder of the Deity of Jesus (vs. 18-19)
 - It is important to remember that when Judas betrayed Jesus He wasn’t simply rejecting a teacher or religious leader, He was rejecting God Almighty (I AM).
- **The Humanity of Jesus:** Through the betrayal we see the emotional pain that Jesus endured as He prepared for the cross (vs. 21)
 - There are several places in John when we see the humanity of Jesus through His grief, most recently at the grave of Lazarus: John 11:32-36.

- The emotion of Jesus is appropriate and an expression of the humanity that He took on in the incarnation: Hebrews 2:17-18

- **The Love and Mercy of Jesus:** Through the betrayal we see a significant display of Jesus’s love and mercy toward Judas (vs. 21-26)
 - As Judas prepared for the betrayal, Jesus extends a final sign of love and mercy as He serves Judas bread. In this culture this was a sign of friendship and honor.
- **The Purpose of Jesus:** Through the betrayal we see the complete commitment of Jesus to the mission of saving sinners (vs. 26-27)
 - Judas was the traitor, but He did not send Jesus to the cross. The plan of salvation was God’s idea and Jesus allowed Judas to do what he did (John 10:17-18)

Judas Left the Light and Went Into the Night (vs. 30)

- Throughout John we have this imagery, Jesus is light, but men reject the light and walk in darkness. (John 1:6-9; John 3:19-20; John 11:9-10). This was the pattern of Judas.

What Judas’ Betrayal Teaches Us About Our Own Nature

- Judas shows us that proximity to the truth is not enough, our hearts must be changed (Matthew 7:21-23)
- Judas shows us the deceptive power of sin and Satan (James 1:14-15; John 12:4-8; 1 Peter 5:8-9)
- Judas shows us the importance of pursuing one another in love (Hebrews 3:12-15)