

“Love One Another As I Have Loved You” John 13:21-38

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Teaching Aim: To examine the events that took place in the Upper Room on the night before the crucifixion of Christ. To recognize Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon would be the one to betray Jesus. To understand the meaning and purpose behind the new commandment that Jesus gave to His disciples. To see how that commandment applies to the Church today. To realize none of us know for sure how we will respond at a moment of crisis until that moment comes, not even Peter.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD *(BIBLE STUDY)*

Part I: Jesus showed John who His betrayer would be (John 13:21-30)

1. Have you ever had a friend turn his or her back on you? How did it feel? Was your friendship ever restored? Warren Wiersbe wrote, *“A dark shadow now fell across the scene as Jesus dealt with Judas, the traitor. It is important to note that Judas was not a true believer; he was a hypocrite. He had never believed in Jesus (John 6:64-71), he had not been bathed all over (John 13:10-11), and he had not been among the chosen ones whom the Father gave to the Son (John 13:18 and 17:12). How close a person can come to salvation and yet be lost forever!”* What truths can we learn from this quote about Judas?

2. What Old Testament prophecy did Jesus quote from in **John 13:18**? (See **Psa. 41:9**) What two evil individuals does this quote apply to? (See Commentaries) Who did each betray?

3. Was the betrayal by Judas a surprise to Jesus? (See **John 6:54**) Knowing this, how could Jesus wash the feet of Judas anyways? (See **John 13:10-14**) What troubling fact did Jesus announce in **verse 21**? How did being betrayed affect Jesus emotionally (**vs. 21**)? How has being betrayed affected you in the past?

4. What can we learn about the disciples from **verse 22**? Did the disciples have any inclination that it would be Judas? Why do you think the disciples trusted Judas so much (**vs. 29**)? How did being appointed treasurer bring the greed out of Judas?

5. Who was the disciple whom Jesus loved (**vs. 23**)? (See **John 19:26-27; 20:1-2; 21:7, 20**) How do you think the other disciples felt when the Apostle John used this self-designation for himself? We know that jealousy was already an issue among the disciples, do you think this helped the situation? (See **Luke 22:24-27**)

6. Why would John lean on “*the bosom*” (the human chest) of Jesus (**vs. 23**)? Did they use a table and chairs like we do today, or was this a different setup? Apparently, John was reclining next to Jesus on the floor. What did Peter do when he overheard Jesus mention that someone would betray Him (**vs. 24**)? What did John do at Peter’s request (**vs. 25**)?

7. Apparently, several of the disciples wondered if they would fall spiritually and do it. What can we learn from **Matt. 26:25**? If **Matt. 26:25 & 26** occurred in chronological order, when did this interaction at the table take place?

8. How did Jesus respond to John’s request (**vs. 26**)? Who did Jesus give the morsel of bread to? What did this action symbolize? Why do you think John used the full name of Judas as he accused him? Would you say that you are closer in your everyday walk to Judas or to Christ? Considering the sin in your life, do you find it amazing that Jesus still loves you?

9. What immediately happened once Jesus gave Judas the piece of bread (**vs. 27**)? Was the desire to betray Jesus something new or had Judas been thinking of this for some time? What will happen today in our life if we open the door up to Satan?

10. Can Satan possess a true believer? Why or why not? (See **1 John 4:4**) Can Satan torment a true believer? Was Satan responsible for Judas’ actions, or was Judas? According to **verse 28**, had any of the other disciples overheard the interaction between Jesus, John & Peter?

11. Why did the disciples think Judas got up and left the table (**vs. 29**)? Does this indicate that the disciples had complete trust in Judas at this point? If so, on what grounds?

12. What did Judas do as soon as he received the morsel of bread from Jesus (**vs. 30**)? Did Jesus command Judas to go out and do evil, or did He simply turn Judas over to the evil that was already in his heart (**vs. 27**)? (See **John 3:19-20**) Has this ever happened in your life?

Part II: Jesus informed His disciples that His departure was coming soon. (John 13:31-35)

1. It's interesting that once Judas was gone, Jesus began to freely instruct His other disciples. What is the main theme of Christ in **verses 31 & 32**? How many times are the words "*glorified*" and "*glorify*" used? What title did Jesus use for Himself in **verse 31**? What is the significance of this title? (See **Dan. 7:13-14**) Who else is glorified when the Son is glorified?

2. What did Jesus pray for to the Father in **John 17:4-5**? What will the Father do if the Son glorifies Him (**vs. 32**)? How would this glory be accomplished in Christ? Christians tend to focus on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ? Why is the ascension of equal importance? (See **Acts 1:9-11**)

3. In what unusual way did Jesus address His disciples in **verse 33**? Note: This is the only time Jesus used this phrase to address His apostles and it is the only time this phrase is found in the gospels. Do you think the Apostle John remembered this phrase when he addressed the believers 9x as "*little children*" in **the Epistle of 1 John**? Why? (See **1 John 2:1,12,13,18,28; 3:7,18; 4:4; 5:21**)

4. Jesus informed His disciples that He would be with them for only a little while longer. Had He told his disciples this before? (See **John 8:21**) Why was it necessary that Jesus go to the cross alone? How should His disciples act on earth until they go to be with Jesus in heaven?

5. Had the disciples been commanded to love before? (See **Deut. 6:4-6; Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:37-40**) What made this commandment from Jesus new (**vs. 34**)? The mark of the true Christian is love. How can we love others today as Jesus has loved us? What is the purpose behind this kind of love (**vs. 35**)? (See **John 17:20-23**) Do we see this kind of love in many churches today? Unfortunately, what do we see? Note: The Christian is to love one another as Christ has loved us no matter what. This kind of love requires the help of the Holy Spirit.

Part III: Jesus prophesied that Simon Peter would deny Him three times (John 13:36-38)

1. In **verse 36**, Simon Peter seemed to ignore the words of Jesus on love. What was Peter interested in? Where was Jesus going? Why could Peter not follow Him? Note: The substitutionary atonement of Christ is something that only Jesus could accomplish for His people. (See **1 Pet. 2:22-24**) Why? When would the disciples join Jesus in heaven?
2. What did Jesus prophecy in **John 21:18-19**? According to tradition, how was Peter martyred? (Hint: Search Online)
3. Jesus left His disciples on earth with a mission. What was it? (See **Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15**)? What mistaken belief did Peter have in **verse 37**? Was he sincere?
4. As the story develops, the exact opposite would happen. (See **Matt. 26:69-75**) Jesus' prediction that Peter would disown Him 3x must have rocked the disciples, he was a leader among equals. Do you think the disciples wondered if Peter would be the one to betray Jesus? Who ultimately ended up laying down His life for the sins of Peter and the rest of His people? Why is **John 21:15-19** especially important to Peter? What are some ways that the Lord has forgiven and restored you when you've sinned against Him?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Jesus was troubled in spirit that one of His disciples would betray Him.
- The giving of the piece of bread to Judas by Jesus was a sign of friendship; Judas received the bread pretending to be a friend of Jesus.
- When we open a door to Satan in our lives, he will quickly come in to destroy.
- The disciples trusted Judas; Jesus had appointed him to be their treasurer.
- We might be able to con others, but we cannot con God!
- Only Jesus could go to the cross and be the substitutionary atonement for our sins.
- The disciples would join Jesus in heaven later, at the moment, they had a mission to do.
- To love one another was not a new commandment, but to love one another as Christ has loved us brings the commandment to a whole new level.
- Loving people at this level can only be done in the power of the Holy Spirit and, when done, demonstrates to the world that we are Christ's disciples.