



Gospel Community Notes & Questions

Title: The Traitor

Text: John 13:18-30

Theme: Beware betraying your only hope of life and salvation.

Teaching Notes: At the Last Supper with his disciples, Jesus prophesied that one of them who ate his bread would be a traitor. Judas is subsequently identified, though most of the disciple seemed unaware of his intention to betray Jesus. This message goes back chronologically in the story of Judas to uncover the roots of his treacherous heart and to serve as a cautionary tale for others.

Outline:

1. The Formation of a Traitor.

- a. Judas followed Jesus for personal gain. (12:5-6)
- b. Judas planted seeds of deception and betrayal. (12:5-6)
- c. Judas virtue signaled, especially compassion. (12:5-6)
- d. Judas stopped short of surrendered faith. (6:64; 13:10-11)
- e. Judas made a deal with the devil. (13:2, 27)

2. The Finality of a Traitor. (13:30)

- Jesus had just exhorted the crowds to “Walk in the light!” But Judas went out into the night – into darkness.
- Judas stepped into eternity feeling remorse but never repenting.

3. The Failure of a Traitor.

- a. Judas couldn't stop God's love. (13:26)
- b. Judas couldn't stop God's plan. (13:18-19)



Questions to explore individually and with your group:

1. What did you know about the background to Judas' betrayal of Jesus prior to this message? What's something you learned or that stood out to you?
2. What are some of the things Judas did/said that made him appear to be a true disciple on the surface?
3. What are some ways the modern church, particularly in the West, creates and encourages consumerism rather than true discipleship? How are people being taught to believe that life is all about you, and the church and Jesus exist to make sure you have really positive, fun, awesome experiences?
4. Reflect on #3. Who/what are we actually training people to follow?
5. Many people abandon Jesus because the "seeds" they've been planting in their lives finally take root and start bearing fruit. Name some of those seeds that lure or drive people away from their faith. (e.g. greed, resentment, lust)
6. What is virtue signaling? What words does the Bible use for virtue signaling? Why is virtue signaling a danger to your soul?
7. In the language of Ephesians 4:27, how did Judas give the devil an opportunity or foothold in his life? What might you be doing right now that is giving Satan a foothold in your life?
8. List some ways Jesus showed love to Judas, even to the end. What do you need to do in response to observing this kind of love?
9. Judas and the devil did their worst to Jesus, but in the end they could only accomplish the plan of salvation that God had already determined. How does this truth comfort and encourage you right now?
10. What one actionable thing will you do this week in response to this Scripture?

Prayer Prompts:

1. Praise Jesus for his unconditional love and unbreakable purpose and resolve to rescue sinners through his life, death, and resurrection.
2. Acknowledge desires and doubts that are being planted in your life right now that have the potential to wreck your soul. Where these seeds are sinful, confess them to the Lord and turn away from planting them.
3. Ask God to help you engage in the true discipleship of following Jesus, not as a means to an end, but as the worthy object of your love and trust.