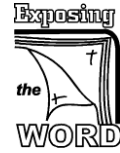




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## 33- The Revelation of Sin- The Guilty Identified *John 13:18-30*

When we think of the meanest men who ever lived who crosses our mind. Certainly men like Hitler; who massacred the Jews, Gypsies, Slavic people and other in the Holocaust, Pol Pot of Cambodia; who killed about 25% of his own countrymen. Oh, we could go on and on with men who most would agree were agents of Satan. Where does this man Judas fit? He certainly has a bad reputation because he betrayed Jesus. Jesus said in *Mark 14:21* ***The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born.***

But Judas was one of the twelve chosen by our Lord and brought into the inner circle of His disciples.

### **I- Betrayal of a Close Friend:**

I remind us that we are at a most intimate setting of the Passover meal. Jesus has just washed the disciples feet in what was probably one of the most tender moments recorded in their relationship.

Jesus knew when He chose Judas that he would betray Him. We have discussed this previously. Notice now *Joh 13:18* ***I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me. 19 Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he. 20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. 21 When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.***

Jesus tells them that He was not talking about all of them being clean because He knew of the betrayer. Why did He choose Judas? Of special importance here is that Jesus said that the Scriptures might be fulfilled was one purpose of choosing Judas.

This was prophesied in *Psalms 41:9* ***Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.***

I remind us that the prophecies of Messiah that had been given that were fulfilled were/are a great verifier of Christ.

The lifting up of the heel is a picture of a horse that turns and kicks the one who just fed him or of a runner who trips another in a race in order to win. The eating of bread here was an act of friendship and Judas in effect would betray one who had shown him a close affection of friendship.

It seems like a natural time to attempt to answer the question of why would Judas betray one who had shown him such love and friendship.

We can only speculate and attempt to read between the lines but we see it could have been out of simple greed. Judas was the keeper of the money for the group. Remember his reaction when the pricey perfume was poured out onto Jesus feet. *John 12:4-6* ***Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, 5 Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? 6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.*** This was certainly one factor.

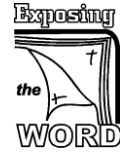
Another reason might have been to force Jesus to assume the kingdom and overthrow



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the Roman rule, so that Judas might have a powerful position in that kingdom, by forcing the issue.

We simply do not know for certain. I am reminded however of the words of Jesus in *Mark 8:36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*

## II- Is it I?

Jesus announced that one of them would betray Him. This caused each one of the men to begin to question if it was them.

*John 13:22 Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake.* The gospel of Mark gives us some additional insight on this night. *Mark 14:19 And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? and another said, Is it I?*

May I say that these men were right to stop and question their own heart? We as well must constantly guard our heart and seek to know it so we can live a close to God as we can. Jeremiah said in *Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

## III- Ask Who It Is:

Peter is not in close proximity to Jesus at the table. The disciple Jesus loved is traditionally identified as John.

*John 13:23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. 24 Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake. 25 He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it?*

Peter signals John to ask who the betrayer was. Jesus did not identify him by name but *John 13:26 Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it.*

Remember this is foretold in Psalms 41. Warren Wiersbe said concerning this, "When David wrote the psalm, he was probably referring to his counselor Ahithophel, who turned traitor and joined Absalom's rebellion (see 2 Sam 15-17). It is significant that both Judas and Ahithophel committed suicide by handing themselves (2 Sam 17:23; Matt. 27:3-10; Acts 1:18)" (*The Bible Exposition Commentary*, page 347)

## IV- The Guilty Identified:

*John 13:26b ...And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. 27 And after the sop Satan entered into him.*

Here we have the revelation of the sin and the identification of the one that was guilty of betraying him. Jesus clearly showed Judas that He knew that it was him who was the betrayer.

A couple of points burn into the soul here. First is the position of Judas at the table. John we have identified as leaning the breast of Jesus on his left side. Judas however is not without significance in that he was on the right side of Jesus. Jesus therefore would have been said to rest His head on the chest of Judas. This was a most intimate place. I suggest again that Jesus loved him and held out hope that His love would overcome even the betrayal in the heart of Judas. Jesus only wants the best or mankind and always holds hope for redemption. William Barclay calls this "Love's Last Appeal."

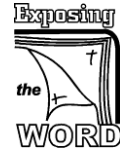
This also points out that which we all do not want to hear. *Luke 12:2-3 For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. 3 Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in*



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*closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.*

Beloved we cannot help but notice the parallels here between the identification of the guilty, first being Judas, and the rest of mankind. Judas certainly was a special case of lostness. He was guilty of what we look at as a horrible crime against Christ. But beloved I hasten to state that we all have been found guilty. Guilty by our own actions, thoughts, conscience and most of all by the perfect law of God. We the guilty have been identified. We all are guilty by the evidence of the following verses.

**Romans 3:23-24** *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:* The good news is that Christ has the remedy.

**Romans 5:12** *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:* The one deniable thing that all of mankind share that points to our guilty is death. Christ has conquered that as well however.

Christ speaks to Judas probably in a tone not loud enough for the others to understand or if they heard the words they did not understand. In some ways there seems to be a great sadness in the next verse because the hope of grace that Christ had held out is now extinguished.

**John 13:27b...***Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly. 28 Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him. 29 For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor.*

Did you notice that there was not suspension of any of the disciples when

Judas left? He had them all fooled. They just thought that he was going to conduct some business that needed to be done to fulfill their collect mission. This illustrates that we can fool all those around us into thinking that we are something that we are not. Judas has everyone fooled, everyone but Christ that is.

### V- Into The Darkness:

We saw very early in John that darkness is identified with sin and evil. We also see that men choose darkness rather than light.

**John 3:19-20** *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.*

Jesus is clearly identified as light by John. (**John 8:12; 12:35, 46**) Now Judas is leaving the presence of the Light and notice what most certainly carries a great significance. **John 13:30** *He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night.*

John has a way of using words in the most pregnant way. It was night for the day was late; but there was another night there. It is always night when a man goes out from Christ to follow his own purpose. It is always night when a man listens to the call of evil rather than the summons of good. It is always night when hate puts out the light of love. It is always night when a man turns his back on Jesus Christ. (William Barclay, *The gospel of John*, p171.)

Judas was identified as the betrayer, we all have been identified as well. Have you come to the one who can forgive. The one that has done all He can do to bring you into a relationship with Him? He waits patiently.