

Judas Have I Loved

4.4.2021

Easter Sunday 2021

John 13:21–30 (CSB)

JUDAS'S BETRAYAL PREDICTED

²¹ When Jesus had said this, he was troubled in his spirit and testified, **"Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."**

²² The disciples started looking at one another—uncertain which one he was speaking about. ²³ One of his disciples, the one Jesus loved, was reclining close beside Jesus. ²⁴ Simon Peter motioned to him to find out who it was he was talking about. ²⁵ So he leaned back against Jesus and asked him, "Lord, who is it?"

²⁶ Jesus replied, **"He's the one I give the piece of bread to after I have dipped it."** When he had dipped the bread, he gave it to Judas, Simon Iscariot's son. ²⁷ After Judas ate the piece of bread, Satan entered him. So Jesus told him, **"What you're doing, do quickly."**

²⁸ None of those reclining at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹ Since Judas kept the money-bag, some thought that Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival," or that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰ After receiving the piece of bread, he immediately left. And it was night.

³¹ When he had left, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so now I tell you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'

³⁴ "I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

1. The picture that John the Apostle paints of Jesus' Last Supper is a work of absolute beauty.

A. All through the Book of John, John is focused on Jesus' divinity.

1. More than Matthew, or Mark, or Luke, John is captivated by Jesus as Son of God.

2. This is clear in the opening lines, "In the Beginning was the Word and the Word was God and was with God."

3. The Word is Jesus.

B. Yet, as John describes the events of Jesus' last hours, we are confronted with Jesus' humanity.

1. Jesus, who was fully God, was also fully man.

2. And we see Jesus' struggle with the events that He knows is unfolding.

3. What makes Jesus so extraordinary in these moments is that He is fully aware of what is taking place, yet He loves anyway.

4. John invites the readers into one of the most intimate dinners ever shared.

a. John unveils Jesus' agony, his love, and his troubled spirit.

b. We see a battle being fought and won.

2. The Disciples are gathered to celebrate the Jewish Seder.

A. The Seder, or Passover, meal is the defining celebration.

1. On this night, the Jewish faithful remember and celebrate their deliverance from the forces of Egypt so many years ago.

2. The meal, shrouded with imagery, is a modern reenactment and celebration:

a. Wine is shared.

- b. Bread is broken.
- c. Bitter spices are prepared.
- d. Lamb is sacrificed and roasted.
- e. The door is opened and a chair left empty in anticipation of the prophet Elijah returning to announce the coming of the Messiah.

B. For this special celebration, the disciples reclined at the table.

1. "It was customary to sit at most meals. Reclining at table, a Hellenistic custom, was reserved for special meals."¹

2. The Disciples reclined as a "mark of unhurried celebration in contrast to the hurry of the first Passover."

3. Jesus would have reclined in the middle, and the disciples would have reclined on their left-arms, leaving their right arms to eat.

C. This arrangement made two spots more special than the others.

1. Earlier, the Disciples had argued about who was the greatest!

2. They wondered who would sit closest to the Master:

a. Who would Jesus immediately share the cup with?

b. And when it was time to dip the bread or morsel into the herbs and spices by Jesus, who would He give the first to?

c. The host at a feast (whose role is here filled by Jesus) might well dip into a common bowl and pull out a particularly tasty bit and pass it to a guest as a mark of honour or friendship.²

D. One of the ones that Jesus chose was definitely John.

¹ D. A. Carson, [*The Gospel according to John*](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans, 1991), 473.

² D. A. Carson, [*The Gospel according to John*](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans, 1991), 474.

1. John is said to have laid his head on Jesus' chest.
2. He was the one that Jesus loved and would have been on Jesus' right.
3. But who was the other?

3. Unbelievably, Jesus chooses Judas over everyone else!

A. Jesus has announced that one of them would betray Jesus.

1. Jesus had been open about this since the beginning.
2. Now, Jesus reminds them again that one of them would indeed be the betrayer.

B. Catch the imagery:

1. The men are reclining at the table.
2. Peter, not sitting close enough to Jesus to ask directly, asks John (Jesus' so-called favorite) to ask Jesus "Who is it."
3. John lays His head back, softly, and quietly asks, "tell me, you can trust me."

C. Jesus declares that the one who receives the morsel, the bread.

1. In other words, "The one I have loved and honored is the one who will betray me."
2. Jesus loved Judas. Jesus honored Judas. Judas resented Jesus.

4. How could Judas do this?

A. What was it that caused the seeds of betrayal to linger in Judas' heart?

1. Perhaps part of Judas' problem was wrong-expectations.
2. Jesus wasn't doing what he thought the Messiah should do.
3. Jesus wasn't going where he thought the Messiah should go.
4. Judas likely thought he was doing Israel and God a favor.

a. Our response when God does the unexpected reveals our hearts.

b. Multiple times over, Judas had the opportunity to repent.

c. Multiple times over, Judas chose resentment instead of repentance.

5. Many within the sound of my voice have chosen resentment instead of repentance.

a. When difficulty came upon you, you chose to be offended instead of worshipful.

b. You chose hate over joy.

c. You chose offense over peace.

6. The same water that softens a potato hardens the egg.

a. The same trouble that drives some people away from God drives others toward Jesus.

b. Judas allowed his disappointment in Jesus to lead him to betray Jesus.

B. Not only did Jesus not meet Judas' expectations, but Judas became a person who could not love.

1. Earlier, a woman had anointed Jesus for burial.

a. She had taken her alabaster jar, worth 300 days wages, broken it and anointed Jesus.

b. This moment of extreme worship should have brought a tear to every eye in the room.

c. Instead, it brought out the indignation of Judas.

d. How "DARE HER" wasting money like this was his response.

2. People who cannot love cannot worship.

3. Englishman George Herbert wrote a poem saying:

*Mine own Apostle, who the bag did beare,
Though he had all I had did not forbear
To sell me also, and to put me there:
Was ever grief like mine?*

*For thirtie pence he did my death devise,
Who at three hundred did the ointment prize,
Not half so sweet as my sweet sacrifice:
Was ever grief like mine?³*

4. *The life that the woman valued as exceeding 300 days wages, the one whom she valued as worth more than her life's savings, the Jesus she loved more than her life itself, Judas sold for 30 pieces of silver, the ancient price of an ordinary slave.*

5. Yet, Jesus loved Judas.

A. On the night that Jesus was betrayed, Jesus showed His love by:

1. Washing Judas' feet.
2. By seating Judas at a place of great honor and love.
3. By giving Judas the prized morsel.
4. All the while, Jesus knew what was in Judas' heart yet Jesus loved Him anyway.

B. On that night, Jesus dips the morsel of bread, dips it in the sop, and hands it to Jesus.

1. Jesus, knowing his heart, tells Judas to go and do.
2. Jesus loved Judas, but He didn't stop him.

³ D. A. Carson, [*The Gospel according to John*](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans, 1991), 476.

3. Judas received the sop but not the love.⁴

C. Then Jesus turns to His disciples and said: John 13:31-35

1. The world will know you are one of my disciples by the way you love one another.

2. Notice, Jesus didn't say it would be our love for God.

a. The Jews who would cry for Jesus' blood LOVED GOD.

b. The Romans, the implements of God's plan, LOVED their pagan Gods.

3. No, my dear friends, the world cannot recognize Jesus in us by our devotion to God, but by our love for each other.

a. The person who claims to love God, but hates their neighbor knows not Jesus.

b. The person who claims to love God, but refuses to forgive, knows not Jesus.

c. For what a demonstration of love has God shown, that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

d. While we dipped our hands in the bowl of betrayal, Jesus loved us.

e. While our hearts were still full of every sin, every hatred, unforgiveness, and all that is dark, Jesus loved us.

6. Yet, Jesus did not stop Judas.

A. Jesus gave Judas many opportunities to repent.

1. But true love does not force itself.

2. Jesus' knowing about Judas' betrayal does not mean that Judas had no choice.

⁴ D. A. Carson, [*The Gospel according to John*](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans, 1991), 475.

a. Judas' response to later demonstrates the presence of remorse without repentance.

b. Judas willingly opened the door in his life for satanic and sinful activity.

B. The writer John makes this point in the very simple line: "And it was night." 30b.

1. The darkness in Judas' heart was greater than the darkness outside.

2. All through John, light represents good and darkness evil.

3. In Jesus there is no darkness.

4. In Judas, there was no light.

C. Is there anyone more miserable than a person who has been close to God at one time and subsequently walked away?

Close: Today, I want to remind you of Jesus' love for you!

A. No one here would have loved Judas like Jesus did.

1. And the same Jesus that loved Judas till the end is the same Jesus that loves you today as well.

2. Perhaps you find yourself in a place where you feel numb to love.

a. You can't worship because you can't love.

b. Maybe you want to be loved, but you are afraid you have done too much and have gone too far to ever experience love like Jesus promises.

B. If I may encourage you this morning, it is this: Jesus loves you.

1. The same Jesus who loved Judas, invited Judas to follow him everywhere, and gave the most honorable place to a person like Judas is someone who can love you through everything.

2. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.

3. YOU are a whosoever.

C. It is likely that there are people here today who do not know Jesus.