

The Gospel of John: Betrayals & Love

John 13:18-38

Prediction & Mission (v. 18-20)

- Jesus has told the disciples that they will be blessed if they sacrificially serve one another (v. 17)
- Now He clarifies that this does not pertain to all of them because someone will betray Him
 - Though He doesn't state this plainly at first
- He quotes David's words from Ps 41:9
 - This prediction is meant to strengthen their faith in Him
- He asserts that to believe in Him is to believe in the One who sent Him (His Father)
 - And likewise, to believe the ones Jesus will send out (the disciples) is to believe in Him
 - Jesus' mission will continue even after the Cross through His disciples, including us

Betrayal by Action (v. 21-30)

- Jesus then tells them plainly that one of them is going to betray Him
- They don't know who it is
 - Peter asks the 'beloved' disciple next to Jesus to clarify who He means
- Jesus discreetly informs John that the betrayer is the disciple with whom He shares a piece of bread
 - Even though Judas is about to betray Him, Jesus treats him with love and courtesy
- At this moment, Satan takes possession of Judas
 - This does not imply that Judas had no choice in this event
 - Satan utilized Judas' good intention
 - Most evil acts are done by people who think they're doing something 'good'
- Jesus tells Judas/Satan to get on with his plan immediately
 - Judas leaves to tell the High Priest's guards where they can find Jesus

A New Command (v. 31-35)

- Jesus states that His glorification has come
 - His death via crucifixion
 - Somewhere they cannot follow now
- He will then leave His disciples to continue His mission by following His example
- The mark of true disciples is whether they love each other as He has loved them
 - God has always commanded love (Dt 6:5, Lev 19:18)
 - What makes it a *new* command is that Jesus sets the standard for how we are to love

Betrayal by Disowning (v. 36-38)

- In ignorance & impulsiveness, Peter insists that he will follow Jesus wherever He goes
- Jesus tells Peter he will follow the path of Jesus later
 - Peter will later die like Jesus
- But Peter will first disown Jesus three times
 - A betrayal of his own
 - In fact, all the disciples will flee that very night
- Jesus does not tell Peter this to shame him but to humble him
 - Jesus later forgives Peter for his betrayal

So What?

- Jesus forgives us when we fail
 - Are we seeking His forgiveness?
- Jesus commands us to continue His mission
 - Are we living out His mission by loving others as He loves us, both in word & deed?

Meditation Verse: John 13:34-35