

The Gospel of John

Chapter 13:18-38

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- **The Gospel of John Outline:**

- Chapter 1 Our Lord is the Word, the Light and the Life
- Chapter 2 The Lord of the Wedding Feast; Zeal for the purity of the temple
- Chapter 3 Spiritual Birth, Belief and Salvation vs. Unbelief and Condemnation
- Chapter 4 The Ministry in Samaria, The Harvest, The Faith of the Nobleman
- Chapter 5 Paralytic man healed on the Sabbath, Unity of The Father and Son
- Chapter 6 The Bread of Life
- Chapter 7 The public debates about Jesus during the Feast of Tabernacles
- Chapter 8 Public debates: Woman caught in adultery; The Son makes you free; Abraham's true children
- Chapter 9 Jesus heals a man born blind.
- Chapter 10 Jesus is the Door and the True Shepherd
- Chapter 11 Our Lord is the Resurrection and the Life
- Chapter 12 Jesus Anointed and Worshipped as King, God softens some and hardens some, Public ministry ends
- Chapter 13 Jesus Loves His Disciples, Judas Betrays The Master

- **Review and Introduction**

Earlier in this chapter, Jesus takes on the clothing of a common servant and washes the disciples feet. He explains that He had done this as an example of the manner in which the disciples were to serve one another. If Christ, properly called Teacher and Master, acted this way, how much more should we who don't have as far to stoop in humility as He did? John concluded that section by quoting Christ when He said, "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them" meaning that it is not enough to simply know that we should live like this, we must actually manifest this humble love for one another in our lives.

Exposition of John 13:18-38

18 "I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.'"¹⁹ "Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He.

- Jesus again reveals that there is one of the disciples who is in reality just the opposite of a disciple, Judas the betrayer. Surely, Judas heard these words and Jesus knew he would not change his mind. So why does Jesus say this? Not only does He say this for the benefit of the others but also to further secure Judas' condemnation. Jesus shows Judas that He knows full well his deeds and intentions and gives him the opportunity to respond to the accusation. But having the seed already in His heart, Judas would not respond.
- Jesus chose the twelve, they did not choose Him. Jesus made no mistake in choosing Judas rather His inclusion in the twelve was strategic. Judas' betrayal of Christ occurred so that Psalm 41:9 might be fulfilled. It is generally agreed that this betrayal of David refers to Ahithophel the Counselor who was a great friend of David and then turned against Him during the rebellion of Absalom. Ahithophel may also be the subject of Psalm 55:12-14.
- Again, Jesus offers a proof to the disciples of who He was. It seems hard to imagine that after all they had seen that they could need further proof but the abandoning of Him later on shows that they were not fully committed to Him and therefore additional proof was necessary.

20 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."²¹ When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me."

- At first glance it is difficult to know why Christ gives this instruction at this point. But it appears that Christ may be trying to encourage the disciples lest they get too discouraged that one of their number is a betrayer. Jesus is declaring to the disciples that He has vested in them the authority to represent Him to the world and that the world is obligated to listen to them. The betrayal of Judas did not spoil the entire group of disciples. Jesus assures them that the world will be required to listen to them and that they are not falling apart.
- Knowing the implications of the betrayal, Jesus again (the third time recorded by John) was troubled. Clearly Jesus dreaded the agony of His betrayal, the scourging and humiliation which was to occur and especially the crucifixion. However, it can be speculated that the thing which troubled Him the most was the break that would occur between the Father and the Son. The eternally pre-existent relationship would be broken—thankfully, only for a short time.

22 Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke.²³ Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.²⁴ Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke.²⁵ Then, leaning back on Jesus' breast, he said to Him, "Lord, who is it?"²⁶ Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped

it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.

- The disciple "whom Jesus loved" was presumably John. Here we see that even the disciples who were the closest to Jesus did not know who it was who would betray the Master. Jesus shows them who the betrayer would be by sharing a portion of His meal with him. Despite His knowledge that Judas would betray Him, Jesus does not act harshly toward Him nor does He attempt to dissuade him.

27 Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."²⁸ But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him.²⁹ For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, "Buy those things we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor.³⁰ Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.

- It was not enough for Satan to have planted the betrayal in Judas' heart, now Satan actually entered into Judas to carry out this deed. Satan must have wanted to ensure that the act was carried out successfully. Even after Jesus had revealed Judas as the betrayer to Peter and John, still they were unsure of the manner in which the betrayal would occur. They thought that perhaps Judas was to do something with the money with which he was entrusted.

31 So, when he had gone out, 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 glorify Him immediately."³³ "Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I say to you.

- Jesus was sure that the betrayal would occur and therefore was equally as sure that the glorification of His Father would occur. He further states that if the Father is glorified, then so too the Son would be glorified as well. Notice that this statement comes right off the revelation of Jesus' betrayal by Judas. Even the most heinous acts by those who hate our Lord will be used by the Father to glorify Himself. No one can thwart God nor rob Him of His glory.
- Jesus repeats a phrase which has been commonly spoken in this Gospel. After His crucifixion, Jesus would return to the Father and sit at His right hand. We will follow Him there some day, but not until all of His enemies are made His footstool.

34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."³⁵ "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

- Although the content of the command was not new, the example required in the command was new. Now we are told to love one another following the example of Christ. This sacrificial love for each other is one of the indicators to the world that we are children of Christ. We do not obey this command *so that* the world will see us, but simply living this way will be obvious to the world.

36 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward."³⁷ Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake."³⁸ Jesus answered him, "Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times. NKJV

- Peter declares his allegiance to his Master but without the Holy Spirit indwelling Him, Peter was a timid follower of Christ. It is remarkable to see the zeal in the flesh that Peter demonstrated in light of his denial of Christ. But then to see his true empowerment after receiving the Holy Spirit should drive us to crave the zeal of God. The work that God has called us to do is a spiritual work that we must do in the flesh but driven and motivated by the Spirit of God. If we attempt to please God by our flesh alone we will fail, but if we bring our bodies into submission to the Spirit we can live by the Spirit and please our Lord.