

"the whole truth, and nothing but the truth about Jesus"

THE DAILY JESUS NEWS

An ATJ Ministries Publication

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #282 Thursday... Day of Instruction and Arrest: The Last Supper

Jesus Identifies Judas as the Betrayer

JN 13.21-30 (Parallel Texts: MT 26.21-25; MK 14.18-21; LK 22.21-23)

=====

21 ^JAfter he had said this, ^Mwhile they were reclining at the table eating, ^JJesus was troubled in spirit and testified, *"Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me-- ^Mone who is eating with me."*

They began to feel deep sorrow, and one by one, they said: "Surely it is not I?"

"It is one of the twelve," Jesus replied. ^{MT}*"One who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man will go just as it stands written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man. It would have been better for him if he had not been born."*

22 ^JHis disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. ^LThey began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

23 ^JOne of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. (24) Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means."

25 Leaning back against Jesus' chest, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?"

26 Jesus answered, *"It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread after I have dipped it in the dish."* Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.

^{MT}Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely not I, rabbi?"

Jesus answered, *"Yes, it is you."*

27 ^JAs soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, *"What you are about to do, I command you to do quickly."*

28 But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. 29 Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor.

30 As soon as Judas had eaten the bread, he went out. And it was night.

=====

NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	An Upper Room in Jerusalem
Timeline	Early April (Month 39)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VIII: Passion Week
	D. Thursday: Day of Instruction and Arrest
	The Last Supper
Title	Jesus Identifies Judas as the Betrayer

COMMENT:

In today's reading Jesus reached out for the last time to Judas. The subtext of especially John's gospel describes Jesus' loving actions towards Judas. Let's trace this theme.

John started out Chapter 13 describing the way Jesus **"loved his own to the end."** The foot washing was an expression of that love, even for Judas. Jesus ministered to his physical need for cleansing, even as he gave his betrayer several opportunities to acknowledge his sin and repent during the meal.

Jesus seated Judas on his left side--a place of honor. Young John--**"the disciple whom Jesus loved"**-- was on his right side, in the place of highest honor. This was the place that the youngest son would sit at a traditional Passover meal, and answer the questions about the history of God's salvation that were part of the Seder tradition. By placing Judas in a place of honor, Jesus was reaching out to him--loving his enemy.

After the foot washing, Jesus pointed out that they were not all clean. He knew that Judas was already conflicted, and the bile of his growing sense of guilt was eating at him. Jesus quoted Psalm 41.9, so that Judas would be sure that his Lord was referring specifically to him. At the same time, the Lord did everything possible not to humiliate or ridicule Judas in front of the other disciples. He didn't publicly expose or rebuke Judas. He was not angry with him. He did not retaliate. He just loved Judas to the end.

When each of the apostles said to Jesus, *"Surely it is not I?"*, they used a Greek grammatical structure that showed they anticipated a "no" as the answer to the question. That is, each of them sincerely believed they were not Jesus' betrayer, and they did not think that Jesus considered them as such, either.

Before Judas could ask the same question, Peter had pressed Jesus for the identity of the betrayer through John. Jesus had answered by dipping bread in the bowl of stew, and giving it to Judas as a sign of friendship. Judas had taken the bread and eaten it, knowing full well that doing so was an admission to Jesus that he was the betrayer. But that was not all.

Judas then asked the same question in the form that anticipated a "no" answer from Jesus. *"Surely it is not I?"* Both he and Jesus knew that this construction was a lie for Judas. Judas was planning on betraying Jesus that very night. So Jesus spoke the truth in love to him: **"Yes, it is you."** Jesus was confronting him directly, but quietly, and sensitively. He did not let Judas' lie stand as truth. Judas needed to repent.

It was only after all these opportunities for Judas to agree with Jesus about his sin that Satan's temptation took root in Judas and bloomed into full rebellion. Judas made his choice to spurn all of his Lord's loving calls to acknowledge his guilt, and thereby receive forgiveness and mercy. The betrayer slammed the door on Jesus' ministry to him and fled out into the darkness, where he could hide. Sin hates the light.

The persistence and faithfulness of Jesus' love toward Judas was truly amazing. Jesus knew from the Scriptures, and his own knowledge of Judas' heart, that Judas would betray him. This did not keep him from reaching out to the last possible second to his betrayer.

This was the same unconditional love that would cause Jesus to pray for the forgiveness of his enemies while nailed to the cross. This love is the glory of God the Trinity, shining bright and clear in the face of Jesus. This love is our living hope.

APPLICATION:

Jesus commanded us to forgive freely, even when the same person commits the same sin against us seven times a day, and comes asking our forgiveness. He demonstrated that kind of love in the way he related to Judas.

Who do you need to keep reaching out to, even when you know it will not do any good?

Is there someone you need to forgive yet again, just because it is God's character to do so?

How will you praise God for bounty of his mercy and grace extended to you?