

"One of you will betray Me."

John 13:16-30

16 "Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. 17 "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. 18 "I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'HE WHO EATS MY BREAD HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.' 19 "From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He. 20 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."

Jesus Predicts His Betrayal

21 When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me." 22 The disciples began looking at one another, at a loss to know of which one He was speaking. 23 There was reclining on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. 24 So Simon Peter gestured to him, and said to him, "Tell us who it is of whom He is speaking."

25 He, leaning back thus on Jesus' bosom, said to Him, "Lord, who is it?" 26 Jesus then answered, "That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him." So when He had dipped the morsel, He took and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." 28 Now no one of those reclining at the table knew for what purpose He had said this to him. 29 For some were supposing, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus was saying to him, "Buy the things we have need of for the feast"; or else, that he should give something to the poor. 30 So after receiving the morsel he went out immediately; and it was night.

/Now, the gospel of John moves from Jesus washing the feet of the disciples to Judas betraying Jesus.\

Verses 16 and 17 wrap up the narrative about the foot washing. Jesus teaches some general principles that come out of His earlier teaching on service.

John 13:16 "Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. 17 "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

“Truly, truly” marks what follows as important and to be listened to solemnly.

Jesus made this point in a different way in Luke 24 , during this same meal.

Luke 22:24-27

24 And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest. 25 And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called 'Benefactors.' 26 "But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant. 27 "For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

John 13:17 "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Jesus emphasized this in His ministry.

/God has given us His word not only to inform us but also that we might do what it tells us to do!\

Luke 6:46-49

46 "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? 47 "Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. 49 "But the one who has heard and has not acted accordingly, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great."

NASU

/Now, rather abruptly, Jesus begins to speak of His betrayer:\

He had done this earlier in passages like John 6:70-71 and Mark 14:18-21. And you can look it up.

John 13:18 "I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'HE WHO EATS MY BREAD HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.'

/Jesus knew that one of his disciples was a traitor. He knew it all along.\ The other disciples heard His word and did it to the best of their ability. This one did not.

Judas would strike a blow that would prove fatal to Jesus. For a little while...
Jesus cites Psalm 41:9 here.

Ps 41:9

*Even my close friend in whom I trusted,
Who ate my bread,
Has lifted up his heel against me.*

/Jesus omits the first part of verse 9 because He never trusted Judas.\ He knew everything about him, and knew what was in him. John 2:24-25.

Let's continue with our passage now.

John 13:19 "From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He.

/Now Jesus is telling them ahead of time the things which will soon happen. \ He wants them to be prepared so they are not taken by surprise. More importantly, He gives them a fresh testimony of His deity – He can foretell the future.

But not only that. Once again, He states directly that He is the Lord God – Yahweh.

Ego eimi in the Greek. /The great "I AM". Their Teacher is the Son of God!\

Just like He had told the Jews in chapter 8 (when they wanted to kill Him for it):

John 8:58

58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."

NASU

John continues in chapter 13 verse 20:

John 13:20 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."

Now He is talking about the eleven who believed in Him. /He is going to be sending them out to preach the gospel.\ Those who receive them are really receiving Jesus. That means that they are also receiving the Father. Again, He reminds them that He was sent by His Father to accomplish His mission.

This is another saying that Jesus used often, in different contexts. / Early in His public ministry, He had sent out His disciples with these same words\:

Matt 10:40

40 "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.

NASU

/So now, in John 13:20, He is reminding them of that earlier commission. \ He's saying that their calling has not been cancelled. It continues, despite the betrayal.

John 13:21 When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me." 22 The disciples began looking at one another, at a loss to know of which one He was speaking.

Here once again we catch a glimpse of the humanity of Jesus.

/This is the third time that Jesus mentioned His betrayer in the Upper Room. The other two are found in John 13:2 and 13:10-11.\

Jesus leaves no doubt that His betrayer is present at this meal.

/The disciples are in shock: Who would commit such a heinous act?\

Mark records their reaction:

Mark 14:17-21

17 When it was evening He came with the twelve. 18 As they were reclining at the table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me — one who is eating with Me."

19 They began to be grieved and to say to Him one by one, "Surely not I?" 20 And He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who dips with Me in the bowl. 21 "For the Son of Man is to go just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born."

Let's continue the narrative in John 13:23

John 13:23 There was reclining on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. 24 So Simon Peter gestured to him, and said to him, "Tell us who it is of whom He is speaking." 25 He, leaning back thus on Jesus' bosom, said to Him, "Lord, who is it?" 26 Jesus then answered, "That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him." So when He had dipped the morsel, He took and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.

/Now we are introduced to "the disciple whom Jesus loved". \ Only John uses this description to refer to a disciple of the Lord. He does so on four separate occasions:
/

(1) Here in the Upper Room, John 13:23

- (2) At the cross, John 19:26-27
- (3) At the empty tomb, John 20:2-10
- (4) By the Lake of Tiberius, when Jesus after His resurrection appeared to seven of His disciples, John 21: 7, 20-24 \

[Go through them one at a time with your Bible open.]

But that elicits a question: who is this “disciple whom Jesus loved?”

Taking these four passages, and using the process of elimination, /the evidence points to John, the son of Zebedee.\

Now I assume that most if not all of you have seen the famous painting of the Last Supper by the renaissance painter Leonardo DaVinci.

Let me refresh your memory:

<pic>

It’s a fantastic painting, but unfortunately the layout is wrong.

And the biggest clue is the word “reclining”.

We came upon this during our series on 1 Corinthians. / The supper was most likely held in a special private room called the Triclinium. \ 

/ The guests reclined on couches, on their left side. \ That left their right arm and shoulder free to take the food and drink.

Here’s the more likely configuration: 

/The Jews adopted the Roman and Greek practice of reclining for special meals – like the Passover supper. \

They ate the Passover meal in a relaxed and unhurried manner – in great contrast to the first Passover, when the Hebrews ate in great haste (Exodus 12:11).

/There were three couches set out in rectangular form. \ Now I know a rectangle has 4 sides, not three.

Well, one “side” was missing so the servers would be able to bring the food and drink to the guests.

/Three places held the most honor. \

As the host, Jesus was the most honored guest. The other two places that held special honor were to the immediate right and immediate left of Jesus.

<pic> last supper triclinium (in Gospel of John folder)

/It is most likely that John reclined to His right, while Judas reclined to His left.\

This would be the natural way for John to have reclined at Jesus’ bosom.

This is where we will pick things up next Sunday...