

And it was night.

John 13:21-30

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.

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.

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 and Matthew recorded their reaction: one by one, they said to one another and to Jesus, "surely not I"?

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.

“the disciple whom Jesus loved”. Only John uses this description -4 times.

/The evidence points to John, the son of Zebedee and the writer of this gospel.\

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”. These fellas are sitting, not 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.\ <pic> triclinium villa urbana

/ 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:<pic> triclinium last supper 01

/The Jews adopted the 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 leaned back on Jesus' bosom.

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.

The disciple whom Jesus loved (John) leaned back. His head would have been resting on the chest of Jesus. / In this position, he could whisper his question into Jesus' ear.\ Likewise, only John would have heard the answer that Jesus gave.

Simon Peter gestures to John to find out of whom Jesus was speaking. /This was vintage Peter.\ Peter was impetuous. Jesus considered Peter to be the leader of the Twelve.

/And he was definitely the most outspoken disciple.\ At times He said things to Jesus that were downright bold – and he was usually way out of line.

For example:

Mark 8:31-33

31 And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 And He was stating the matter plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. 33 But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

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And so it was Peter who prodded John to tell him which disciple was going to betray Jesus. /Peter thought that if anyone would know, it would be John.\ But John did not know, so he asked Jesus who it was.

John 13:25 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.

These are intimate details of an eyewitness who was present at this supper.

Jesus dipped the morsel and gave it to Judas. /It was a gesture of friendship, honor, and love.\ Jesus loved Judas to the end.

So now John – and only John - knew that Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, was the disciple who was about to betray Jesus.

/Jesus was giving Judas one more opportunity to abandon his vile plan. \ Jesus made one final gesture of affection before sending him out into the night.

/This is the fourth time that John speaks of Judas as the one who would betray Jesus. \ He did so in John 6:71, 12:4, and 13:2. As a matter of fact, John never mentions Judas without identifying him as the one who was going to betray Jesus.

John 13:27 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.

Judas took the morsel. He accepted the honor. But he rejected the offer of love.
/At that instant, he agreed to be the willing instrument of satan.\

So satan entered into him. It would be better for him had he not been born.

Now there was no turning back. So now Jesus tells him to act quickly.

/Now that Judas was beyond the point of no return, any delay would only serve to keep Jesus from His hour of glory.\

Luke 12:50

"But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished!"

So Judas went out from the presence of the Lord, just like Cain (Genesis 4:6).

And it was night.

At first glance, this appears to refer to the literal darkness. Perhaps it does, but Passover was celebrated during a full moon (Numbers 9:2-5), so it wasn't very dark.

/No, the darkness here is more than physical. It's spiritual darkness.\

John refers to this spiritual darkness often in this gospel. For example, we have these words which Jesus spoke right before He healed the man born blind:

John 9:4-5

4 *"We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. 5 "While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world."*

/In this gospel, Jesus identifies Himself as the Light of the world.\

John 8:12

12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

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/The darkness here is rejection of Christ – and the consequences of that.\

John 12:35-36

So Jesus said to them, "For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. 36 "While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light."

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/The state of Judas' soul when it was night was that of impenetrable spiritual darkness. \ There was no light in him.

John 11:9-10

9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. 10 "But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."

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Once Judas stepped into the night, /the power of darkness would soon have its hour.\

Luke 22:52-53

Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders who had come against Him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as you would against a robber? 53 "While I was with you daily in the temple, you did not lay hands on Me; but this hour and the power of darkness are yours."

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/But then the Light would shine again, and the darkness would hide in fear.\

Acts 26:22-23

"So, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; 23 that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He would be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles."

If you are a believer in Christ, He has brought you out of darkness into His own marvelous light. Now we are called to live as children of Light.

Eph 5:8-11

8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light 9 (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), 10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;