

"The Lord's Supper"

John 13: 18-30

2/6/22

Discussion Guide

Put yourself in Judas' shoes while someone reads the passage. What is going on inside his heart, mind, and soul as he sat there eating and drinking with Jesus and his longtime friends? What is he thinking and feeling when Jesus reveals a betrayer was in their midst? What's going on inside of him when he repeats it the next time, then a third time? What is going on inside Judas when he receives the sop, something given to an honored guest and close friend? Why do you think Judas betrayed Jesus and why did Jesus gracious handling of Judas not reach him? Do you respond the same way as Judas did when experiencing guilt for sin?

¹⁸I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: 'He who shared my bread has turned against me.' ¹⁹"I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am. ²⁰Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."

²¹After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me."

²²His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. ²³One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. ²⁴Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means."

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

²⁶Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

So Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly." ²⁸But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. ²⁹Since 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. ³⁰As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

1. Share your reflections on the story if you haven't already.
2. What has happened to the concept of sin in our culture? Do you think it's a good thing or a bad thing? Do you think we should use other words when speaking about sin when speaking to non-Christians? What about when speaking with Christians?
3. What is sin? Jesus uses one term for it but the Bible has close to two dozen different ways of referring to it. See how many you can come up with. Next, go online and type "22 Biblical Words for Sin and What They Teach Us." How did you do?

Of the terms, which one do you tend to use or think of when thinking of sin? Why are there so many terms for sin?

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4. What is betrayal? Sometimes the easiest way to grasp a term is to see it in action in real life. Give some examples, either from the Bible or from life, of betrayal.
5. Have you ever been betrayed? What was it like and how did you respond to the person?
6. Have you ever felt that you betrayed someone or you betrayed Jesus at a point in your life? How did you feel and were you able to make it right with the person or God?
7. Pastor Richard referred to Billy Joel's song, "*My Life*." Play it. Then list other songs that say the same thing. How do they strike you?
8. Why do we, who did not create ourselves, believe that it is our life and we are the only ones who can tell us how to think, what to believe, what is right or wrong, and how to live? Was there a time in your life that you believed your life was your life and no one else's?
9. How did you shift from independence of God to dependence on God?
10. What do you do with sin and guilt? How can we get free of it?
11. What do you think about the way Jesus treated Judas? Could you treat a betrayer in the same way? How challenging would that be?
12. What does Jesus' response to Judas say about him and how he will treat you when you sin?
13. What is your response to Jesus tender outreach to you when you fail? Are you able to receive it?
14. Read I Corinthians 11:27-29. Paul says we ought to examine ourselves before taking communion so that we take it in a way that is worthy of it. What does he mean by this? What would have happened had Judas examined himself before going to the table of the Lord?
15. How do you prepare yourself to receive the Lord's Supper? What can we do during worship to create an atmosphere that is conducive to receiving the Lord's Supper in a way that fits with its meaning?

End the night with a song that expresses your gratitude for the graciousness and gentleness of Jesus in dealing with our sins.