

The Pathology of Betrayal

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John 13:21-30

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We come now to one of the MOST FRIGHTENING REALITIES in the ENTIRE BIBLE.

- The BETRAYAL of JUDAS ISCARIOT.
 - Judas was one of the 12.
 - He heard every sermon. Saw hundreds if not thousands of miracles.
 - He lived with our LORD for three years. He beheld His glory.
 - And yet, still fell away and is NOW in HELL.
 - The SON of PERDITION.
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- The ABYSS... is the DARKNESS of BETRYAL.
 - THIS defined Judas's life. When Judas is introduced in the LISTS of the APOSTLES he is introduced as *"Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him."* (Matt 10:4; Mark 3:19; Luke 6:16).
 - When Paul describes the whole evening of Christ's passion... "1 Cor 11:23 – [23] *"The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread..."*

BETRAYAL is the DARKNESS of RENOUCEMENT. The DARKNESS of FALLING AWAY. The DARKNESS of DAMNATION.

- But the BORN AGAIN CHRISTIAN will NEVER ULTIMATELY FALL AWAY.
- 1 John 5:4 – [4] *For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.*
- Interestingly, in the LAST DAY 2 Thessalonians 2:3 – The REBELLION comes first.
 - Matthew 10:21 – [21] *Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents have them put to death, [22] and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.*

Jesus also PREDICTED JUDAS's BETRAYAL.

John 13:18 – [18] *I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.'* [19] *I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.*

- Jesus informs his disciples of this, so that they ALL KNOW that this is PART of HIS plan.

What is the PATHOLOGY like of SOMEONE who BETRAYS CHRIST???

1) Become a Pretender

They PRETEND.

John 13:21 – [21] *After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me."*

- Our LORD became TROUBLED in HIS SOUL.

- HIS SOUL was NOT at PEACE. Thinking about the fact that one of the disciples would betray HIM.
- He makes this SHOCKING statement – Amen, Amen... One of you will betray him. (*Paradidomi*).

This SHOCKED the DISCIPLES. Stunned them. Turn to Matthew 26:22 – [22] *And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?”*

- Each genuinely wondered if it might be him.
 - They began to search themselves.
 - Psalm 139:23 – [23] *Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!* [24] *And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!*
 - The BELIEVER responds to GOD in HONESTY and SELF-REFLECTION.
 - 2 Corinthians 13:5 – [5] *Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.*
 - The other 11 RESPOND out of genuine fear and self-examination.

Judas responds duplicitously.

- Matthew 26:25 – [25] *Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?”*
- Judas pretends to be like the other disciples.

HES’s a PRETENDER. The ROLE of a PRETENDER was a NORMAL ROLE of JUDAS.

- *In John 6 when so many disciples abandoned our LORD.*
 - Judas pretended to be one of the FAITHFUL.
- *John 12:4 Judas pretends to care about the POOR.*

2) Outward Conformity

John 13:22 – [22] *The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke.*

- One WRITER – “Judas’s outward behavior conformed so nearly to that of the other disciples that they did not immediately assume that Jesus was talking about Judas.”

Peter in Acts 1:17 – [17] *“For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.”*

Judas had been there from the very beginning of our Lord’s Preaching Ministry.

- Luke 8:1 – [1] *Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him.*

Judas had heard the explanation of the parables.

- Mark 4:10, 11 – [10] *And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. [11] And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables.*

Judas had even become a preacher of the kingdom.

- Luke 9:2 – [2] *and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.*
- Luke 9:6 – [6] *And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.*

Judas has been given authority over unclean spirits.

- Mark 6:7 – [7] *And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over unclean spirits.*

In every way JUDAS CONFORMED outwardly to the STANDARD. So much so that he had fooled the OTHER DISCIPLES.

The disciples want to know who it is. [23] *One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side,*

- This reference is throughout the end of John's Gospel (John 19:26; 20:2; 21:7; 21:20).
- It does not mean that JESUS did not LOVE the other disciples.
- But John in his humility simply doesn't name himself, and describes himself in reference to the LOVE of CHRIST.
- Perhaps in addition... A special affection for John.

[24] *so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking.*

- Simon makes hand signals.

[25] *So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?"*

- John whispers quietly, "Lord, who is it?" No one else was able to hear.

SUCH was JUDAS'S OUTWARD COMFORMITY... that JOHN has no IDEA who it is.

3) Disillusionment with Christ

[26] *Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.*

- The Morsel of Bread was a gift reserved for the guest of honor.
- This is a FINAL EXPRESSION of LOVE from CHRIST.

THE PROBLEM: Judas had become disillusioned with CHRIST.

- What he wanted more than anything was a JEWISH KINGDOM.
- And he wanted to be HONORED in that KINGDOM.
- For HIM JESUS was a means to that end.
- Alfred Edersheim. "We see disappointment in his face when not climbing the Mount of Transfiguration, and disappointment in the failure to heal the lunatic child. In the disputes by the way, in the quarrels who was greatest among them, in all the pettiness of misunderstandings and realistic folly of their questions or answers, we seem to hear the echo of his voice, to see the result of his influence, the leaven of his presence."

WITH that DISOLLUSIONMENT... Coincides with The CHIEF PRIESTS desire to arrest and KILL JESUS.

- John 7:30 – [30] *So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come.*
- John 7:32 – The Pharisees sent officers to arrest him... they could not.
- John 10:39 – [39] *Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.*
- John 11:57 – [57] *Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where he was, he should let them know, so that they might arrest him.*

- Jesus would TEACH in the TEMPLE, and then when he would leave the TEMPLE the CHIEF PRIESTS would not know where to FIND HIM.
 - John 11:54 – [54] *Jesus therefore no longer walked openly among the Jews...*

So JUDAS made his way into JERUSALEM to speak to the CHIEF PRIESTS. And it just so HAPPENED that they were meeting.

Matthew 26:3-5 [3] *Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, [4] and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. [5] But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”*

Matthew 26:14 – [14] *Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests [15] and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. [16] And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.*

4) Tool of Satan

[27] *Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him.*

- SATAN enters HIM.
- The PRESENCE of the ADVERSARY filled the ROOM.
- Satan had already done his work in Judas’s heart. John 13:2 – [2] *During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him...*
- SATAN becomes the CONTROLLING agent of the person.
- The CHRISTIAN remember is regenerate.
- The CHRISTIAN becomes the TEMPLE of the HOLY SPIRIT. 1 Corinthians 6. He is still hard-hearted towards CHRIST.
 - SPIRIT (1 Corinthians 6:19).

But now, JUDAS has been completely POSSESSED by the DEVIL.

Now JUDAS is PRIMED to do whatever SATAN bids him to do. He is a tool of the DEVIL.

Jesus said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.”

- The time of the BETRAYAL needs to HAPPEN NOW.

[28] *Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. [29] Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the feast,” or that he should give something to the poor.*

- Judas was the ACCOUNTANT. He handled the MONEY.
- So the DISCIPLES even then believed that JESUS was sending JUDAS on a mission. To buy something else for PASSOVER.

5) Darkness Overtakes Him

[30] *So after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.*

- Judas’s soul is in DARKNESS.

- John 3:19 – [19] *And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.*

Matthew 27:4 – [3] *Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, [4] saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood. They said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself. “ [5] And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. [6] But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money.” [7] So they took counsel and bought with the them the potter’s field as a burial place for strangers. [8] Therefore the field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.*