

John 13:18-30 Jesus Predicts His Betrayal

Is it possible to find ourselves a seat at the Lord's Seder table?

¹⁸I am not speaking about all of you. I know the ones whom I have chosen; but this is happening so that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'HE WHO EATS MY BREAD HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.' ¹⁹From now on I am telling you before it happens, so that when it does happen, you may believe that I am He. ²⁰Truly, truly I say to you, the one who receives anyone I send, receives Me; and the one who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. ²¹When Jesus had said these things, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Truly, truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me." ²²The disciples began looking at one another, at a loss to know of which one He was speaking. ²³Lying back on Jesus' chest was one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. ²⁴So Simon Peter nodded to this disciple and said to him, "Tell us who it is of whom He is speaking." ²⁵He then simply leaned back on Jesus' chest and said to Him, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶Jesus then answered, "That man is the one for whom I shall dip the piece of bread and give it to him." So when He had dipped the piece of bread, He took and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷After this, Satan then entered him. Therefore Jesus said to him, "What you are doing, do it quickly." ²⁸Now none of those reclining at the table knew for what purpose He had said this to him. ²⁹For some were assuming, since Judas kept the money box, that Jesus was saying to him, "Buy the things we need for the feast"; or else, that he was to give something to the poor. ³⁰So after receiving the piece of bread, he left immediately; and it was night. John 13:18-30

I. INTRODUCTION

There are some things in this passage that we need to be "Going Deeper" with God about.

- Our biggest challenge is not external but Internal.
- Believers struggle with a heart condition.
- Christians don't fall out of love with Christ, they simply stop repenting.

Raymond's Journal: "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." Jn 8:32

It's not the truth that hurts. It's a faulty perception of the truth which causes pain. Every believer has drawn a do not cross line with our Heavenly Father around the circumference of their will. It is the place we as believers, often in blindness (remember blindness can be seen biblically as selfishness) don't want our Heavenly Father meddling. It is also here, on the stage of hypocrisy, the flesh applauds itself with shouts of...ENCORE! The soul which remains in this condition suffers damage-(cf Rom 2:1). Reflection syndrome, the unrepentant heart colors the world with its own pain and madness. Judas signed up with a group of fellow "Hypocrites in Training" but he could only go so far. The call to confront his belief system and to make heart adjustments was too great. He looked into the eyes and the heart of The Lamb of God, and he refused to humble himself and surrender to the love of Christ. Cf 2 Tim 3:16,17; Jn 12:49; Mt 4:4-entry 4/5/23.

II. THE FLESH

The Nature of The Flesh. A Revelation is needed! *"To me to live is Christ. No believer will truly come to know the Lord Jesus as his life until he knows by experience the deadly self-life deep within for what it is. Dr. Scofield said: 'Not everyone, by any means, has had the experience of the seventh of Romans, that agony of conflict. It is a great blessing when a person begins to realize the awful conflict of his struggle and defeat. Of all the needy classes of people, the neediest of this earth are not those who are having a heartbreaking, agonizing struggle for victory, but those who are having no struggle at all and no victory, and who do not know it and who are satisfied and jogging along in a pitiable absence of almost all the possessions that belong to them in Christ.'*

"Self-revelation precedes divine revelation—that is a principle for both the humbling of self for salvation and the breaking of self for spiritual growth. The believer who is going through struggle and failure is the Christian who is being carefully and lovingly handled by his Lord in a very personal way. He is being taken through the

experience of self-revelation and into death; the only basis upon which to know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death (Philippians 3:10)
Miles Stanford, Steps to Spiritual Growth

A Biblical Perspective of Flesh: *“The flesh may be defined as a condition in which man operates out of his own resources, doing things his way. Thus, a person may be attempting to achieve his own acceptance and/or his own victory. The flesh is in operation in a non-Christian continuously. In a Christian, the flesh is operating whenever the believer is not abiding in Christ and walking by the Spirit, and thus is under the power of “indwelling sin.”*

The flesh in a Christian attempts to develop a self-identity or self-image which is not centered around the believers identity in Christ but around one’s self. As this development progresses, the defeated Christian is habituated to the false identity. “He is living according to the flesh” (Romans 8:1-17, esp. vs. 4-5.

- The flesh is an exhaustible resource with inexhaustible needs to meet.
- The flesh holds us captive and victimizes us...in other words we feel trapped.
- The flesh builds self-esteem the same way the world does.
- The flesh conveys an image.
- The flesh is obsessed with the persona projected.
- The flesh becomes known by what others perceive.
- The flesh must be right.
- The flesh overestimates its value and importance...Proud. 1 Pet 5:5-6; Jas.4:10
- The flesh is an idolater...remember, idols=substitutes. 1 Jn 5:21
- The flesh is a rejecter=alienation from love and acceptance.
- The flesh always appears to be more real than the real person. Creates itself as its own focal point. Is an “I” specialist. Characteristically seeks life apart from God. Summary: The flesh loves shameful things. Helps us to not come up front in transparency. Compels us to walk in craftiness and loves hiding deception...” good without God.”

III. REPENTANCE & TRUTH

Repentance: The Issue of the heart

1 Cor.10:12 AMP-*Therefore let the one who thinks he stands firm [immune to temptation, being overconfident and self-righteous], take care that he does not fall [into sin and condemnation].*

Remember: What is Truth?

1. Objective Truth: Confirmed by science & universally accepted.
2. Subjective Truth: Is not confirmed by science & depends on one’s opinion or belief & may be true or false.
3. Relative Truth: Is the idea that views are relative to differences in perception and consideration...Truth relativism is the doctrine that there are no absolute Truths, i.e., that Truth is always relative to some particular frame of reference, such as a language or a culture (cultural relativism).
4. Absolute Truth: Is something that is true, always, and in all places. It is something that is always true no matter what the circumstances. It is fact that cannot be changed. For example: there are no round squares.

Biblical Example: Jeremiah 17:9-10 AMP- *“The heart is deceitful above all things And it is extremely sick; Who can understand it fully and know its secret motives? I, the Lord, search and examine the mind, I test the heart, to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds.*

Reflection:

1. The only person at the Last Supper who dwelled in “**Absolute Truth**” was Yeshua.
2. The disciples dwelled in “**Subjective Truth**” driven by “**The Flesh.**”

IV. OUR SIFTING & GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

The Sifting of the Disciples

Lk. 22:31-32 *"Simon, Simon (Peter), Listen! Satan has demanded permission to sift [all of] you like grain. Vs.32 but I have prayed [especially] for you [Peter] that your faith [and confidence in Me] may not fail; and you once you have turned back again [to Me] strengthen and support your brothers [in the faith]."*

Mk.14:26 After they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Vs.27 Jesus said to them, *"You will all fall away [and be ashamed and be afraid to be associated with Me as disciples], because it is written, 'I WILL STRIKE THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP WILL BE SCATTERED.'* Vs.29 But Peter said to Him, *"Even if they all fall away [and desert You, ashamed and afraid of being associated with You], yet I will not [do so]!"* Vs.30 Jesus said to him, *"I assure you and most solemnly sat to you, this very night, before a rooster crows twice, you will deny [that you even know] Me three times."* Vs.31 But Peter kept saying insistently, *"If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!"* And they all were saying the same thing as well.

Reflection: If these men esp. Peter can fall away, fail Jesus, and betray and abandon Him. Are we to assume this can't possibly happen to one of us?

Jesus The Faithful Friend: Jn. 15:15

"I do not call you servants any longer, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you [My] friends, because I have revealed to you everything that I have heard from My Father. Vs.16 You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and I have appointed and placed an purposefully planted you, so that you would go and bear fruit and keep on bearing, and that your fruit will remain and be lasting, so that whatever you ask of my Father in My name [as My representative] He may give to you.

- Yeshua, upheld the integrity and strength of the relationships with His disciples.
- Yeshua, never condemned, abandoned, betrayed, or rejected His disciples.
- Yeshua, prayed for their full restoration and continuance in their calling. He now continues to intercede for us.

V. ACTION ITEMS

Our Part: Live with a sense of godly reverence and urgency!

1 Peter 1:13-16 NLT *So, prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. Vs.14 So you must live as God's Obedient children, don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. Vs.15 But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. Vs.16 For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy."*

Our Part: Earnestly develop a secret life with our Heavenly father! Joel Richardson: Excerpts from *The Lesson of The Foolish and Wise Virgins*. Primary point of the parable:

1. Having a secret history with Christ, and an ongoing relationship and life with Him.
2. Which means having a heart that is awake, aware of its condition, aware of its hypocrisy, aware of its frivolity, aware of its wickedness, aware of its weakness. Having a heart that is humble, realistic, and ready for the arrival of Jesus.
3. Abiding in the vine by having a conversational life of prayer with God a secret life with the Holy Spirit. Jesus said don't ever give up, don't ever relax. We need to cultivate this ongoing relationship, this secret life with God through prayer by abiding in the vine...

Proverbs 4:23 NLT *Guard your hear above all else, for it determines the course of your life.*

APPENDIX: THE BEAUTY OF BROKENNESS

THE BEAUTY OF BROKENNESS

proud people:

Focus on the failures of others
 Look down on other
 Independent/self-sufficient spirit
 Maintain control; must be my way
 Have to prove that they are right
 Claim rights

Demanding spirit
 Self-protective of time, rights, reputation
 Desire to be served

Desire to be a success
 Think of what they can do for God
 Feel confident in how much they know

Self-conscious
 Keep people at arms' length
 Quick to blame others
 Unapproachable
 Defensive when criticized

Concerned with being "respectable"
 Concerned about what others think
 Find it difficult to share their spiritual needs with others
 Have a hard time saying, "I was wrong, will you please forgive me?"
 When confessing sin, deal in generalities
 Remorseful over their sin when they are caught/found out
 Compare themselves with others and feel deserving of honor
 Blind to their true heart condition
 Don't think they need to repent, but are sure everyone else does

broken people:

Overwhelmed with sense of their own spiritual need
 Esteem all others better than self
 Dependent spirit/recognize need for others
 Surrender control
 Willing to yield the right to be right!
 Yield rights

Giving spirit
 Self-denying
 Motivated to serve others

Desire to be faithful to make others a success
 Sense of unworthiness; thrilled to be used at all; eager for others to get credit
 Know that they have nothing to offer God
 Humbled by how much they have to learn
 Not concerned with self at all
 Risk getting close to others/willing to take risks of loving intimately
 Accept personal responsibility—can see where they were wrong
 Easy to be entreated
 Receive criticism with a humble, open heart
 Concerned with being real
 All that matters is what God knows
 Willing to be open/transparent with others
 Are quick to admit failure and to seek forgiveness
 Deal in specifics
 Repentant over sin (forsake it)
 Compare themselves to the holiness of God and feel desperate need for mercy
 Walk in the light
 Continual heart attitude of repentance