

Christ Glorified by Betrayal and Denial

John 13:18-30

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Introduction: Have you ever seen someone's faith completely derailed by some evil circumstance or person who entered their lives and brought great pain and anguish to them? This person might have called themselves a Christian. The circumstance might have happened within a church. Or....it can be the death of a loved one or child or even the death of a marriage or engagement. Perhaps it has happened to you. It certainly has to me. What did I do wrong? If I cannot think of anything then the next question is, "Why didn't God help me? Or "why didn't He vindicate me or protect me? Did He even know that evil was going to come on me? Was He powerless to stop it? Is life just random events that God is powerless to control or protect us from?"

Jesus is just hours from the cross now and He is using all of His remaining time to prepare His disciples and us as well to live in a world that is unjust, unfair and just plain evil much of the time. It still does destroy the hope and faith of countless people and causes them to doubt the existence of God Himself. Jesus knew it would do that to His disciples [it almost did] and He knew it would do it to you.

He began this teaching at the Last Supper by assuming the role of the lowest servant or household slave and washing the feet of each one of His disciples. He washed Judas' feet too. Only Peter verbalized what they were all thinking....

John 13:6 ⁶ So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?"

John tells us that...

John 13:12-17 ¹² when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined *at the table* again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³ "You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for *so* I am..... ¹⁵ "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. 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.

"I do not speak of all of you: But not all of them will know them and do them. The concept of service to others escapes men...even men who have spent years in the presence of Christ Himself observing the perfect example of it. Church people are prime examples of this. Church leaders even worse. Many, if not most, consider themselves over the people who are to take their instructions from them.

He has shown them that the path to greatness in His Kingdom is the path of servanthood. We are to serve one another, because as the Father had revealed to Peter...."Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Living God!" What does He need from us.

Jesus is deeply concerned that we do not fail in our faith when we see the dark side of human nature in others.. But there is something equally as devastating....It is seeing that same weakness in yourselves. Most of us would never see ourselves as a Judas, but that is a flaw in our armor that is easily exploited by Satan. It is not enough not to be like Judas....we need to be like Jesus!

I know the ones I have chosen;: Jesus knows everything about everyone. Let me make a statement that many will contest, but it is a Biblical assertion. All of the disciples would have rejected and betrayed Christ if left to their own understanding, and moral compass. They all forsook Him to save their own lives...didn't they. We do not like to accept God's evaluation of our spiritual state, but our natural state apart from God is like Judas'.

Romans 3:10 ¹⁰ as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

1 Corinthians 2:14 ¹⁴ But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

Ephesians 2:1-3 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

The difference between the eleven and Judas is that Christ had chosen them.

Ephesians 1:4-5 He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

He went and gathered them up after the cross and he sent the Holy Spirit into the world to do the same thing today.

Ephesians 2:4-5 ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

But *it is* that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'HE WHO EATS MY BREAD HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.': Jesus quotes Psalm 41:9 to strengthen His assertion that nothing in this world is ultimately out of control. God knew and moved the Psalmist to write that a close friend, who shared intimate meals with Christ, would betray Him. The allusion is to a horse getting ready to kick someone viciously. That is just about the way betrayal feels to the recipient.

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*: Jesus could have just let events play out as He knew they would, but He was concerned about our emotional and spiritual well being. It is shocking to be betrayed. BUT....it is only truly effective if it is person you do not

suspect would do it. Every person who has ever betrayed me was a Christian. If I were not a Christian those betrayals would have had almost no impact. Do not make the mistake of thinking that only Christians betray one another. This is patently false. Moslems are doing it wholesale in Afghanistan, Syria, Egypt and Iraq. Sceptics and atheists do it to one another. Democrats do it to one another. So do Republicans. The key thing in betrayal is that it comes from someone like you...someone who you trusted.....someone you would never expect to do it. And it devastates us and our trust in Christ's power, goodness and control of events.

I know people who will not serve others in the church because there are Judas' in there. They have lost confidence in Christ to protect them and defend them and the pain is too great to contemplate. Why serve anyone at all if one of them may betray me or maliciously wound me? And here is the answer. Jesus knows they are there the way He knew Judas was among the twelve. Remember...we are called to be like Jesus. Jesus washed Judas' feet too.

Jesus knows they may surface to do their evil, but until they do we have served one another and loved one another and ultimately we have served and pleased Christ. When these things happen....and they do.....Jesus wants you to know right now...today....that He knew about it and it is under control. Such betrayals cannot derail the will of God in your life. They are part of living as an alien in enemy territory. Christ is God! He is the **I AM!**. If He knew about Judas you can rest assured that He knew about old so and so! If He used the betrayal of Judas for His glory and our good....He can use old "so and so's" malice for the same end.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.": Christ has sent us into the world to be His witnesses. We need to quit thinking of this as just button holing someone with a tract or a plan of salvation. YES...we do need to tell the gospel to people, but lets talk about this context. Christ has called us to serve one another with humility and love even though....hiding among us are those who might surface to do us harm. When they do we should keep moving forward because we have been sent to serve Christ by serving one another in love.

In the church....when we serve another in love and when we receive one another's love and service we are receiving Christ and the Father.

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." [21] Jesus is human with human emotions. DO not think for one minute that Jesus does not feel your pain when someone maliciously slanders you or hurts you in some way. "Troubled in spirit" means disturbed, in turmoil, restless and full of dread." Even though Christ has always known that this day would come and that the person would be Judas, He still experiences this wide range of emotions about it.

^{ESV} **Hebrews 4:15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

The disciples began looking at one another, at a loss to know of which one He was speaking. [22]: This is exactly the kind of reaction that we have when something like this happens. We cannot believe it. This is the reason Jesus is telling them ahead of time...so that they will know that such a circumstance is not beyond God's knowledge or purpose.

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?" [23-25]: Apparently Jesus stopped with that statement and let it sink in. Everyone was looking at Jesus to know who it was. Peter thinks that John might be able to get Him to tell. And....sure enough....when John ask Him Jesus says....

"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 [26]: Jesus straight out identifies the betrayer by name.

After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." [27]: Even Satan has to wait for Christ to speak. This was true with Job and it is still so in our day as well. Judas could not betray Jesus one minute before Jesus willed it to be so.

Now no one of those reclining at the table knew for what purpose He had said this to him. 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. So after receiving the morsel he went out immediately; and it was night. [28-30]: We have read the story so we know what Judas is going to do but the rest of the disciples have no idea. Judas has been identified as the betrayer, but they clearly do not have their mind around this at all.

Have you ever been in a room during a conversation and not really gotten the drift of what was going on. Have you ever not gotten the joke or wondered why everyone is laughing. Sure...these things happen, but what Judas is going to do is beyond comprehension to the eleven. This is how Satan works. He does the unthinkable. Believe me when I say that there is nothing that Satan is unwilling to do when it comes to evil. You are not match for him and you cannot possible imagine what he is capable of. Our protection and peace is in the protection and electing love of Christ.

Therefore when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him; if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and will glorify Him immediately.[31-32]: Jesus is now glorified! Wait a minute...didn't Judas just become possessed by Satan and go out to exchange Jesus for 30 pieces of silver? Yes...and when he had gone out, Jesus said, "NOW is the Son of Man glorified. Glory is who God is and Glorifying is ultimately something that God does.

Proverbs 16:4 The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.

Glorified means lifted up, displayed, presented on a stage to the world and seen for His true self and nature. All these apply here and they are going to come about because of the most disgusting betrayal and murder in the entire history of mankind. Jesus is not talking about some glory in the distant future...God will glorify Him Immediately!! ON THE CROSS!!

The future glory is coming later. Here Christ is to be glorified as the compassionate and gracious savior. In the future as the Sovereign Creator King. Then it will be that....

Habakkuk 2:14the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

"Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'[34]: Even though Christ is about to be glorified....He is also about to leave them. This is an endearing and a family exhortation. *"You are not just my servants or even my friends...you are my children. As such you will want to be with me, but I am going where you cannot come."* We are only hours from the cross now. Even though Jesus will rise and be with them for 47 more days after Pentecost, it is still just "a little while longer."

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."[34-35]: Jesus is giving final words to His disciples. They all know about the ten commandments and the many hundreds of others in the Law of Moses. This is a new one and it cannot even be carried out apart from what Christ is creating to leave behind on the earth. It is His church. He has told them ...

Matthew 16:18 I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Now He is leaving them with the commandment that goes along with the foot washing lesson at the beginning of this chapter. You need to serve one another. You need to become servants to be great in my kingdom. And that is not enough. It is not enough to do a mountain of sacrificial good works. You must love one another. Because works cannot save you...but almost all men think they can. Religion cannot save you although most religions of the world think that they can.

Let's recap here....How is it that the eleven are different from Judas? Christ chose them and not Judas. If He had not they would have all been exactly like Judas. Do not let the devil play with your mind to make this something it is not. Satan says that Christ chose Judas to go to hell. That is not true. He chose the eleven not to go to hell. What Judas received he deserved. What the eleven received they did not deserve. They received grace.

So they and we are bound to Christ because He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world. Now....we are to love one another for a very specific reason. That is what Christ has done. He has loved you and your fellow believers. When we love one another we testify that we are Christ's disciples. When we hate, fight, betray and do not serve

one another we testify that we are not. We are just religionists or moralists or do gooders or something else. Not Disciples of Christ!

Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered, "Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later." [36]: Peter has not heard a word of Christ's new command. Like most believers, he is interested in himself and where he is going and what he will be doing or allowed to be doing. His love for Jesus is commendable but it is misplaced. Jesus said....

John 14:15 ¹⁵ "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

John 15:12 ¹² "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You." [37]: Because you need to stay here in order to obey my commandment. Why is this so hard. If you die with me you will not be able to do what I have commanded you...Love one another! Peter is zealous but for what he wants and not for what Christ wants. Please brothers and sisters notice this. Christ wants you in the world and He wants you in the church so that you can testify that we are His disciples by loving one another.

AND...There is no merit in loving the lovely. Jesus said so Himself. Any hypocrite or liar can love someone who is easy to love.

Luke 6:31-33 ³¹ "Treat others the same way you want them to treat you. ³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ "If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners do the same.

Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.[38]: Peter, You won't even make it through the night. Judas may be a betrayer but you will be a denier. Now this is something we can all identify with I believe. In a world turning increasingly hostile toward Christ it is easy to be a denier.

CONCLUSION: Jesus told Peter... "you cannot go to heaven with me." And like Peter we also have work to do here. We say we love Christ then let's do what He commands. He is our Lord and He has a mission for us. We may be totally outnumbered in the world and even intimidated into silence there, BUT..... and this is huge....In the church we do testify to the entire world that we are disciples of Christ. IN THE CHURCH? Yes, together we prove that we are lovers of Christ. That means we want what He wants more than we want what we want. Everyone knows that's how love works. You can't just get what you want...you give what your lover wants.

You have your marching orders. It is not to die and go to heaven. It is to live and love one another within the body of Christ. There is nothing difficult to understand here. If

we love Christ for having chosen us out of the world and saved us from eternal death in hell, then let us show that in the way that Jesus wants us to show it. Peter wanted to show it his way...by dying on the spot for Christ. Jesus still wants our love and affection in the same way. Sacrificial, Spirit empowered love for one another even though we are not all that loveable.

How will you show your love to Christ this coming year? Love is fruitless unless there is something that it does. Paul said it amounts to banging on a big brass gong with a hammer unless it has actions. Husbands and wives...test yourselves right now. Mothers and Fathers and Children....test yourselves against the words of Christ when He said...If you love me you will love one another.....

1 Corinthians 13:4-13 ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. ¹² Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. ¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.