

John: Jesus is the Christ # 47
(Preparing for Parting # 3)

John 13¹⁸⁻³⁰

Jesus predicts His betrayal

Entering into 4 perspectives on the situation



(Context)

For Jesus - it's the **eve of His departure**;

- He's putting in place the mechanism by which He will lay down His life;
- He's preparing His disciples for what is about to take place;
 - crucial component is His own betrayal.

In order to **enter into real-life drama** of situation:

- I think we need to put ourselves in shoes of the 4 primary parties in process;
 - disciples / Judas / Satan / Jesus.

The disciples' perspective

As you read the narrative account - **1st word** that came to my mind ...
(also came up early on in Life Group) - word is ...

Clueless

They don't seem to have a clue about what is going on.

About a **year before** this:

- when many of the outer ring of followers / disciples turned away;
 - turned their back on Jesus – went back to where they were before He came;
- Jesus said to the 12:

John 6(67) "Do you want to go away as well?"

(68) Simon Peter answered him,

"Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed,

and have come to know, that You are the Holy One of God."

(70) Jesus answered them,

"Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil."

- Jesus could hardly have been more explicit than that;
 - yet the disciples (or perhaps should say 11/12) seem to have been clueless;
 - maybe so far removed from their thinking – impossible to process;
 - simply removed it from mind – as too difficult.
 - that was a year ago;
 - whether any of them (bar 1) remembered it now a year later – seems v unlikely.

Now we're a year on in **Ch 13** - Jesus has just **washed their feet**;

- Peter objects – feels shame / incongruity;
- can't have his Lord / Master washing his feet;
- refuses;
- Jesus says *if I don't wash you – you are no follower of mine*;
- Peter then wants to be washed all over from head to toe;
- Jesus says (10) *"The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean.
And you are clean, but not every one of you."*
- 11 of the disciples are still clueless;
- so Jesus puts it to them again – another way:
(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.'**
- quoting from **Ps 41** (we read before) – prophesied – important!

They are clueless, but before we come down hard on them for it, realise this: ...

- as far as they know **Judas is respected** / trusted / honourable disciple of Jesus w them;
- apparently Jesus had entrusted him w role of being their treasurer;
- kept money bag – from which they paid their food / lodging expenses;
- from which they gave alms / gifts to poor;
- if Jesus trusted him ⇒ why should they not do likewise.

Jesus well understood / appreciated fact : they **don't understand**

(19) *I am telling you this now, before it takes place,
that when it does take place you may believe that I am He.*

(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."*

They're clueless and ...

Confused

(22) *The disciples looked at one another, **uncertain** of whom He spoke.*

- another one of the 12 disciples tells us a bit more about how they felt:

Matt 26(22) *And they were very **sorrowful**
and began to say to Him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?"*

Consternation

... would be another word to describe how they felt:

- a sudden, alarming amazement or dread that results in utter confusion; dismay.
- according to Dictionary.com
- **healthy self-examination** / self-doubt;
- but utterly perplexed / dismayed at thought.
- in hindsight good evidence that it was not them;
- but may not have been able to find comfort in that just at that time.

Now let's **zoom in** on one of the disciples in particular – **Judas** ...

Judas's perspective

(Thieve & deceive)

A year ago when many were departing from Jesus - Jesus said to the 12:

"Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil."

What would be going thru Judas's mind?

- he had been entrusted with honour of being responsible for money bag;
- he had been helping himself to some of the contents;
- maybe he rationalised it as appropriate payment for services rendered;
- but however he justified to himself,
 - plain fact of matter was : he was a **thief**.

Jesus says "One of you is a devil" - Had he been **caught out**?

- Was he about to be exposed / shamed?
- Did Jesus know what he was doing?
- Should he cut his losses & run?
- lots of others are walking away from Jesus – he could walk too - noone need know;
- but no – Judas has not been named;
 - he decided it is in his best interests to stay;
 - why give up a lucrative position unless he has to;
 - shrewd - calculated **decision to deceive**.

So w Judas it is a matter of thieve & deceive – also ...

Reprieve & leave

Reprieve because not necessarily found out – opportunity to continue;

- Jesus seems willing for him to keep his finance portfolio,
 - ministry position on front bench;
- what's more:
 - it was v soon after this : Jesus rebuked Peter for opposing idea of his dying;
 - told him ***Get behind me, Satan! You (Peter) are a hindrance to Me.***
 - so it's looking like Peter is the one in league w devil;
 - Judas may well be thinking – Phew! – that gets me off the hook;
 - so all's sweet.

Now a year on – he's getting a bit more bold & brazen;

- woman comes w **alabaster flask** of v expensive ointment / breaks / pours on feet;
 - we explored this in last series – last chapter – last year – worth equiv of \$50K
- Judas objects: **Why was this ointment not sold for 300 denarii & given to the poor?"**
 - other disciples said same – that's good (thinks Judas) more that say it better;
- pure hypocrisy!
 - not concerned for poor at all;
 - concerned to line his own pockets w good part of \$50K;
 - as much as he can get away with;
- also could detect here note of frustration / despair even - in Judas - 50k\$ wasted
 - this treasurer portfolio is not looking as lucrative as it seemed before.

Jesus not seem interested in building a **nest egg** : he could tap into;

- keeps giving money away – not accepting gifts;
- future prospects not looking good;
- now Jesus talking about moving on.

Judas seems to be thinking : now might be time to **cut his losses & jump ship**;

- he's shrewd – like the shrewd manager in Jesus' parable;
- he knows \exists s some legitimate authorities out there who have concerns;
- they want intelligence;
- info on Jesus's whereabouts / private movements when not in public;
- seems like they might be willing to pay for it.

So why not?

Now Jesus is saying: *"Truly, truly, I say to you, **one of you will betray Me.**"*

- then Jesus says specially to Judas:
- (27) *What you are going to do, **do quickly**"*
- why not – Jesus might know more than Judas wants Him to know;
- this plot is looking like it could be exposed;
- What to do? – come clean – repent – beg for mercy – or go for broke?
- what Jesus said Do it quickly" seems to **give leave** to go ahead – might as well.

Now it is deliberate ...

Betray & slay

Sell life – sell Jesus's soul for 30 pieces of silver – yes – he'll do it. Betray & slay!

Now as we said in children's talk \exists more to this than meets eye;

- \exists **another thief** / **deceiver** / pretender / slanderer on the case – behind the scenes;
- faceless mastermind / super-assassin.

Satan's perspective

What is his **purpose?**

Crush the Christ

Stomp on Him – pulverise Him – grind Him into the dirt – into oblivion.

How? – Judas is his **play puppet**

- as we seem - v willing / shrewd / calculating in his own way;
- but Satan's plaything nevertheless;
- get him to want to lift his heel against this Jesus.

His **method**:

Infiltrate the heart

We given insight into his way in text –back at v beginning of chapter – beginning of series;

(2) **The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot to betray him.**

- leave him to act on this - commit himself;
- then ...

Possess the person

(27) Then after he had taken the morsel that Jesus handed him,
Satan **entered** into him.

- enter in person – take possession / assume ownership of the person;
- make him now the v embodiment of evil.

I not want us to dwell on that anymore – **enough** for the **powers of darkness**;
- our prime consideration is ...

Jesus's perspective

What is Jesus **planning / purposing**?

- we can't really appreciate the power / perfection of this
w/o having looked at other 3 perspectives - entered into their situations;
- now let's look at this the way we are really meant to - the way it really is.

He knew there was one not chosen (– yet He chose him)

(17) If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

(18) I am not speaking of all of you; **I know whom I have chosen.**

- not everyone of the 12 was chosen / elect unto eternal life;
- not everyone of them was predestined to glory;
- ∃ one who was called the son of destruction – John 17(12)
- who would go to his own place – Acts 1(25)

There was one not chosen – **yet Jesus chose him** as one of the 12;

- called amongst His closest companions one whom He knew was never truly His;
- one whom He knew would follow desires of his own heart;
- one whom He knew : feel he doing right thing – in betraying Him to death.

This is all in accord w **Jesus' perfect plan**.

He knew there was one not clean – yet He washed his feet

Jesus would stoop and **wash the feet** of one :

- whom He knew who had already contracted w authorities;
- to pass on intelligence of private position;
- betray him for price of 30 pieces of silver.

Here is Jesus knowingly **eating** with this man – washing his feet;

- dipping choice morsel of bread into dip of herbs / spices;
- would be reserved for close friend;
- knowing that Judas set his heart against him;
- **Why?** – so all world know : can't presume upon outward privileges
- as being any assurance of eternal acceptance w God;
- also: so all world know : ∃ call / summons even from brink of hell;
- come back – I will wash you!
- you could be forgiven – you could come clean!

Perfect paradoxes continue:

He had all things in His hands – yet He was troubled in His spirit

As one who was truly / **fully God** – He had **all things in His hands** – sovereign over all;

- had to be this way – predetermined;

Yet as one who was truly / **fully man** – He was truly troubled in His spirit;

- betrayal is a horrendously grievous thing to have to include in perfect plan;

- this is no cold / calculated plan w/o heart / feeling;

- Jesus felt the human anguish of having a friend turn traitor upon Him.

He exposed the plot – yet He kept the culprit hidden

Jesus made it v clear that **He knew** that His arrest / trial / death

would be precipitated by betrayal of a **close / familiar friend**;

- even one of the chosen 12;

- revealed this clearly to all 12 – yet kept actual identity of culprit secret.

Why? - left each of the disciples **examining themselves** / doubting themselves

- Jesus knows : whilst uncomfortable – would be healthy for them;

- humbling / wholesome.

He exposed the person – yet only to one disciple

Why? – to reveal to all world : Jesus' **election is personal / particular**;

- He determined not only : He would be betrayed by a familiar friend;

- but that He knew all along precisely which so-called friend this would be;

- no one else would know until it actually happened;

- but Jesus wanted everyone to know that He knew;

- told 1 trustworthy friend – who would record it faithfully in his gospel
for all the world /over all time.

Most importantly of all:

He validated His plan & person (– and sacrificed Himself in the process)

He came to His own people, and His own people did not receive Him;

- it is His own people who will clamor for His crucifixion;

- it is one of His own 12 disciples who will betray Him

- treacherously sell his soul for 30 pieces of silver;

- it was crucial to masterplan of redemption:

- Jesus lays down His life for His friends – at hands of His so-called friends!

- that His so-called friends become His inveterate enemies;

- He redeems a good number out of them.

Betrayal by familiar friend – **one who ate his bread**

- was prophesied by David 1000 yrs before event;

- prophecy had to contain most unlikely / incredible events;

- so that when they came to pass:

- only willfully blind would be unable to see : conclusive proof of the plan;

See how **literally** the prophecy is **fulfilled**:

- all the disciples ate bread w Jesus;
- but one is singled out to eat choice morsel of bread dipped in herbs/spices;
⇒ only willfully blind can't see : this is out of this world.

Who could **orchestrate their own betrayal** by a close friend – to fulfil prophetic word?

- not only validate plan
- **validates person** of Jesus – as Son of living God;
- as One who is mastermind / superhero of whole process of redemption.

(Conclusion - Our perspective)

Now where does this leave each one of us?

What's **our perspective**?

- hopefully:
 - **forewarned / forearmed** against Satan's perspective:
 - he wants us too;
 - **shaking / shuddering** at Judas' perspective:
 - there but for the grace of God go we!
 - **perturbed / pensive** concerning the disciple's perspective:
 - healthy / humbling dose of self-doubt;
 - **relieved / resting / redeemed** in Jesus's perspective:
 - assurance: He holds those who are His in His hands;
 - no one can snatch them out of His hands.
- Hallelujah!

Pray

Sing From the squalor of a borrowed stable ... thru the kisses of a friend's betrayal ...

Benediction – Rev 1(5,6)

