

**John 13:21-35(ESV)** <sup>21</sup>After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” <sup>22</sup>The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. <sup>23</sup>One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table close to Jesus,<sup>24</sup>so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. <sup>25</sup>So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, “Lord, who is it?” <sup>26</sup>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. <sup>27</sup>Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.” <sup>28</sup>Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.<sup>31</sup>When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ <sup>34</sup>A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

Amen.

Jesus was troubled in spirit. The term troubled is the same term used when Jesus broke down and cried at the death of Lazarus. One reason Jesus wept was he discerned how much pain the mourners were in, especially the sisters of Lazarus. Grief at a person’s death is not a sign of weakness, nor a lack of faith and trust in God. Grief comes because a person we loved so much is no longer with us and yes, does it ever hurt. A troubled heart can be the heart that discerns the needs of those around you and it weighs heavily on your heart. Jesus was grieving and felt the grief of those around him. His heart was troubled. You can trust completely in the Father and still have a troubled heart in a way that pleases God. Having said that, a troubled heart due to lack of trust in God does not please God and is an affront to God. Jesus never never lost his trust in the Father, even when He was hanging on the cross. At His lowest, He cried out to God and understood His Father completely.

It is Thursday evening. The Bible says, *“<sup>21</sup>After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”* If you and I had

eyes to see the spirit world when Jesus' heart became troubled, in this instance you would see the presence of Satan in that upper room. For the discerning Christian, the presence of evil can be sensed and yes, the presence of evil is troubling. There was a battle going on for the very soul of Judas. Judas was about to change his allegiance from Jesus to Satan. Jesus sensed the evil and Jesus did not want Judas' soul to be lost for eternity. Jesus was troubled so deeply because Jesus knows how evil works. Evil promises a soul something really tempting (30 pieces of silver) and after the evil act is over, the evil ones does all he can to steal, kill, and destroy that person. Jesus knew he was about to lose one of the disciples and it troubled, broke the very heart of Jesus.

I have been in prayer meetings where we prayed intensely for God to save the soul of a particular person. You can sense the tension in the air. The enemy does not want any person won over to Christ. There is a spiritual battle taking place and discerning Christians can feel it in their souls and yes, it is very troubling. Jesus' soul was troubled. He knew Judas was about to sell his soul to Satan and be lost forever. Judas looked into the eyes of perfect love found in Jesus. Judas looked into the eyes of God and chose instead to surrender to the evil one. It tore Jesus up on the inside. When we see a person we love turning away from Jesus, we too are torn up.

I do not understand why a person chooses evil over the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. We live by the blessing of a right choice or the curse of a wrong choice. Ever since Adam and Eve sinned against God in the Garden of Eden, we have this strong inward pull toward sin and evil. It means we choose the dark side and push God's love away. It is heart breaking.

*<sup>21</sup>After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me."* One more point before I leave this verse. When a person chooses to betray Jesus, to make a terribly sinful choice against God, the Bible says God's Spirit is grieved. We live in a day where politicians and other national leaders, entire

higher educational institutions, and specific locations all over the United States have given up on God and given themselves over to the evil one. That is why your heart breaks when you watch the news. You sense in your spirit, "Something is terribly wrong" and yes, something is terribly wrong. Whenever a soul turns against God and God's ways, the enemy wreaks havoc and that is what you sense in your spirit and how troubling it is. God's way is the way of love. Hate takes over when God's love is spurned. God's Spirit is being grieved in our nation. Discerning Christians sense it big time.

In but a few short hours all the weight of sin and evil would be dropped on Christ. The trouble in Jesus' spirit at the moment is nothing compared to what he felt on the cross. Oh how Jesus loves you and me. He bore it all. All to Him we owe. The Bible says Jesus even bore our grief. The choice is ours. It is best to choose the love of Jesus and reject the evil side, the dark side, Satan's side. We live by the blessing of a right choice or the curse of a wrong choice. "Lord Jesus, please keep us on Your side." "Please never let us leave You for the dark side."

The disciples became anxious wondering who would be the one to betray Jesus. "Is it I" they asked one another? Jesus let John know who it was. Jesus dipped bread into something and handed it to Judas. This very act of Jesus was a sign of friendship, of love, and acceptance. Had the disciples known what Judas was about to do, more than likely they never would have let Judas leave the room alive. You and I can hide our sin and darkness from one another but never from Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then after he [Judas] had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to Judas, "What you are going to do, do quickly." Friends, when I study this passage I do not ever think, "Judas, how could you do this?" Judas, I am so much better than you." "I would never betray Jesus like you did." No, when I study this passage I am cut to the quick. "Lord Jesus, please show me where I am betraying you." "Lord Jesus, show me where I am a Judas." We all have a little Judas in us, capable of any sin. It is why Jesus had to die on the cross. Once

we open ourselves for the Holy Spirit to show us our sins, the Holy Spirit does it rather quickly. It is God's kindness that leads us to repent so our fellowship with God can be restored. We may turn away from Christ but for a moment and the perfect love of God has a way of stopping us in our sin and bringing us back. Judas rejected that love. Judas rejected God. Judas did not turn back and took his own life. Evil chews people up and spits them out.

*<sup>30</sup>So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.*

*<sup>31</sup>When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him".* With the presence of Satan out of the room, leaving in and with Judas, there was a calmness in the room. It became easier to breathe. The plan of salvation set up in eternity past between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit was in full motion. The glory of Jesus is the cross. Now that Judas was gone, the cross was an absolute certainty (William Barclay, *The Gospel of John*, vol 2, pg. 148). The greatest of sacrifice brings with it the greatest of glory. In heaven no one will be honored more than Jesus for His was the greatest sacrifice of all, remaining obedient unto death, even death on the cross. You and I bring glory to God with every act of obedience. Jesus' act of obedience on the cross brings to God the greatest of glory. When Jesus comes again, you will see the glory He received from the Father. You and I cannot even begin to imagine what we will see. The glory is in direct proportion to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, the complete obedience of Jesus unto the Father. Your obedience and my obedience brings glory to God, that is why Jesus tells us to take up the cross and follow Jesus.

"Trust and obey, for there is no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey." The glory of God will make all of our earthly obedience worth it, no matter the sacrifice.

Friends, it is completely possible to misinterpret the Bible. For example, you are struggling with a particular relationship big time. You really do not like the person at all who is causing great grief in your life. You ask God for help. You close your eyes and open up the Bible. The first verse you read is when God tells God's people to kill everyone in sight. You

close the Bible and reopen it up and the first verse you read is, "Whatsoever thou doest, do it quickly." And there is your answer. God wants you to kill the person causing you misery. Yes, the Bible can be misinterpreted.

<sup>34</sup>A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." The New commandment that Jesus is giving is a correction to a gross misinterpretation of the Old Testament. The Old Testament states, "Love your neighbor." The people interpreted the verse, yes, love your neighbor and you can choose to hate anyone you wish. Jesus interprets the Old Testament correctly and tells them to love one another. Earlier Jesus had stated that your neighbor is any person in need. On the cross, Jesus showed His perfect love for all people. As servants of Christ, we do not have a choice to hate anyone but are called to love everyone and pray for those for whom we think are our enemies.

Friends, God is convicting me of a terribly rotten attitude toward a particular group of people. I see them as instruments of evil. To me they are nothing but a group of Judas' making their living by betraying Jesus and are led by Satan. The Bible says, "love your enemies." In the midst of writing this sermon it hit me that the people I have no regard for at all, God loves them. They are all created in God's image. So now every person I see on the news that makes my blood pressure rise, I stop and pray for that person's soul to be won over to Christ. I also have to admit that when it comes to sinning, I am no better than they are. My sin in God's eyes is just as obnoxious as their sin. At the foot of the cross, we are all equal sinners. What is most important is a person's soul. Eternal life is at stake. There is a battle going on for every soul in our country. Judas chose the dark side. Judas rejected the love of God. God is giving time right now for all to repent and to be born again, born anew, born from above, saved by grace through faith. May the glory of Jesus displayed at the cross be seen for all it is so the enemies of the cross will bow down to Jesus before it is too late. Amen and Amen.