

John-30
“Lessons from Judas, Peter & Jesus”
John 13:18-38 (NIV)

Hey Newsong!

I want to take a moment and welcome our first-time guests and those who are joining us online...

We're in John's Gospel...

And if you missed it last week...Jesus has less than 24 hours before He goes to the cross...

He's celebrating the Passover with His disciples, and during the meal...He decides that it's time for a lesson in humility and servant-leadership...

He gets up from the table...grabs a basin of water and a towel and begins to wash the disciples feet...Then He sat back down at the table...

And He tells them basically “Hey guys, this is what I want you to do...I want you to serve others just like this...”

One of our big takeaways last week was that
“Saved People Serve People”
We want to be people of the towel...

The way we serve one another at church is by joining the Dream Team...so if you're here today and you haven't joined a team, or taken Growth Track...please stop over to our Next Step Table and get some more information!

So, last week we ended in verse 17 which is right in the middle of Jesus' conversation with His disciples...

Have you ever been in a conversation and the topic suddenly gets heavy...That's what's going to happen as we listen in today...

In fact, as we listen to this conversation between Jesus and His disciples, we might be tempted to think...oooh I wish so and so were here today...They need this message...

Take those thoughts captive today...And instead, ask the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart...Because this word is for all of us!

John 13:17-38 (NIV)

Let's pray

I did a quick google search on the most famous betrayals in movies...

The top three...

1. Scar betraying Mufasa in "The Lion King"
2. Cypher betraying Morpheus, Neo, Trinity, and the rest of the crew in "The Matrix"
3. Fredo betraying his brother Michael in "The Godfather Part 2"

You don't forget a good betrayal story...
I still remember like it was yesterday...

July 7th, 1996...

WCW Bash at the Beach...

Hulk Hogan betrayed The "Macho Man" Randy Savage and joined the NWO! What?

I don't remember much about reading
Shakespeare's Julius Caesar in High School...

But I do remember those words he spoke as he realized his close friend Brutus was among the assassins... "Et tu Brute"

We've all experienced betrayal of somekind...

A close friend...

A spouse...

A brother or a sister...

The closer the relationship...the more it hurts...

By far the most famous betrayal in history...
Is Judas Iscariot betraying Jesus for 30 pieces
of silver...Which is about \$30 today...

Judas is so famous for betrayal that his name
appears in the dictionary as a synonym for
traitor... *“especially one who betrays under the
guise of friendship”-Merriam-Webster*

As I was studying this chapter...I started
thinking about how much this betrayal hurt
Jesus...

Jesus is fully God and He's fully human...He
knows the pain of being betrayed by a close
friend...

Notice that He quotes from Psalm 41

***9 Even my best friend, the one I trusted
completely, the one who shared my food,
has turned against me-Ps 41:9 (NLT)***

This Psalm was originally written by David...who was betrayed by his friend and advisor Ahithophel...

It was Ahithophel who joined David's son Absalom in his rebellious take over of the kingdom...

So this already happened and David wrote about it...but when the Holy Spirit gave David these words, they were also a prophecy about what was going to happen between Jesus and Judas...

This is why Jesus is like, Hey I'm telling you this now so that when it happens you'll **believe** (there's that word again) believe what? That **I am He...**

I'm the Son of the Living God...The Christ, The Messiah...God in the Flesh

In the Greek language...I am He is “**ego eimi**”

Which is God’s relational name in Hebrew
“YHWH” or in English “Jehovah”

Which God uses to describe Himself in Det.18
So...Here again, we see Jesus saying “ego
eimi”...He used it in Jn 4, Jn 8, here in Jn
13...He’ll use it again in Jn 18...

He clearly says that He is God...This is why He
knows what’s going to happen and He’s telling
them so that when it happens everyone
believes Who He is!

But again...even though Jesus is God in the
Flesh...He’s feeling the pain of betrayal...

I thought we were friends...

I thought we were brothers...

We sat and ate together...

...Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified,
“Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.”-Jn 13:21 (NIV)

The disciples are shocked...You can just picture them staring at each other...They have no idea at this moment who Jesus could be speaking about...

I can picture this awkward pause...then just whispers...In fact Matthew says...

22 Greatly distressed, each one asked in turn, “Am I the one, Lord?”-Mt 26:22 (NLT)

So Peter motions to John...Like find out bro...

26 Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him-Jn 13:26–27 (NIV)

That's a scary statement...Satan entered into him...

How does that happen? How do you go from one of Jesus' disciples to having Satan himself enter into your heart?

Talk about deconstructing your faith...

Some people read this and think...Judas betrayed Jesus because he was demon possessed...in other words, Judas wasn't responsible for his actions...the devil made him do it...

Was Judas an unwilling puppet controlled by Satan? I don't think so...If Satan had that kind of power...he would just simply overtake us all...No Satan has to be invited in!

What I want us all to understand is that a spiritual collapse doesn't happen overnight...

Three lessons from Judas...

An unsundered heart is **VULNERABLE**

Judas followed Jesus physically but He didn't follow Jesus spiritually...

Judas had the best Pastor...

He had the best Teacher...

He had the best Life Group Leader

He even served on the Dream Team...

He was fully committed physically...

But not spiritually...

He looked like a disciple...

But he never really became one...

This means that you can attend church and still be far away from God...

You can belong to a church and not belong to Jesus...

You can change your behavior without ever being truly born-again...

Behavior modification doesn't = Heart Transformation...

As disciples we don't just know about God...We're getting to know Him more and more...

We don't just read His Word...We apply it to our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit...

A surrendered heart says: Jesus, You are Lord of my life! Take me, make me, break me...do whatever You have to do, to make me more like You!

An unsurrendered heart says: Jesus, You are Lord of most of my life...but this, this, and this...belong to me! So do what You will with what I'm giving you!

Betrayal was ultimately the fruit because an unsundered heart was the root...

Judas had a heart that wasn't fully-devoted to Jesus...and that left him vulnerable to demonic attacks!

What about you? Ask yourself is there an area of my life that I'm not surrendering to Jesus?

A secret love for sin keeps the door wide **OPEN**

Up to now...John has given us a glimpse of what was going on in Judas' heart...

Judas was the treasurer...

In other words, as Jesus traveled around and ministered...any money they received for the ministry went into the bag...

This means that Judas was trusted by Jesus to take care of the finances...

But in chapter 12, John tells us that Judas was stealing money from the bag all along...

Remember in the last chapter, Mary pours perfume on the feet of Jesus, as a beautiful act of worship?

3 Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus' feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance. 4 But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, 5 "That perfume was worth a year's wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor." 6 Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples' money, he often stole some for himself.
-Jn 12:3–6 (NLT)

Judas had a secret sin...He was greedy

He loved money, more than he loved God...
So every once in a while...He took it...
Maybe he even justified it...
Hey I deserve to get paid for my services...

One compromise leads to another and another
and another...

Can you imagine all of the sermons that Judas
heard about humility, forgiveness, repentance,
the dangers of loving money more than loving
God?

Every sermon...every miracle...every act of
kindness...act of grace...testified of Who Jesus
is...

Every altar call...he could have repented...

Think about when Jesus said...

24 “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.-Mt 6:24 (NLT)

Judas could have said...

Lord, that message was for me...I'm a slave to money...I've been stealing from You, please forgive me...

But he refused to repent...

He loved his sin...

You can hear the truth and not let it penetrate your heart...

The same sun that melts wax hardens clay...

Likewise, the same gospel that softens one heart can harden another if it is continually rejected...

The Holy Spirit convicts us to bring us back to God. Every time we ignore that conviction, our hearts become a little less sensitive...

The more we reject the Holy Spirit the easier it is to sin the next time...

Repeated rejection hardens your HEART

Again, this is Jesus' last night with His disciples...it's Passover...Everyone is lounging at the table...

When we read the Gospel accounts we can figure out that more than likely Jesus is seated as the Host of the Dinner...Now to sit on the right or left of the host was considered seats of honor...

John was sitting next to Him...this is why he's able to lean back against Jesus and ask who's the betrayer?

This means that Judas was given the other seat of honor...because Jesus was able to dip the bread and give it directly to Judas...and then talk to Him quietly...

Now in this culture...for the host to hand the bread to someone was the same as us making a toast to someone today...

It was a sign of respect, honor, and friendship

Do you know what this means? This means that Jesus was giving Judas another chance...He was extending grace to Judas...

Judas...I love you friend...

Judas...here's one last chance...

What does Judas do? He rejects Jesus' invitation...

Judas didn't have to be the one who betrayed Jesus...he chose this path...it wasn't an overnight fall...it was a slow fade...

See we think that the enemy will come at us with something big and obvious...Sometimes he does...but usually its something very subtle...

A toxic relationship that you won't sever...

An offense that you won't forgive...

A jealous, prideful, or lustful thought that you refuse to take captive...

A sin you won't repent of...

These are just some of the things that the enemy uses to harden our heart...

Scripture repeatedly warns us that the enemy is looking for an opportunity to get a foot in the door of our spiritual life...

26 And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.” Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 for anger gives a foothold to the devil.-Eph 4:26–27 (NLT)

8 Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.-1 Pe 5:8 (NLT)

The good news is that we can resist the devil...
We don’t have to give in to his temptations...

12 If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. 13 The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.-1 Co 10:12–13 (NLT)

7 So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. 9 Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.-Jas 4:7–10 (NLT)

When we humble ourselves before God He lifts us up!

Judas didn't fall because Jesus let him down in some way...He fell because he left the door of his heart wide-open through continual, unrepented compromise...

To the point where his heart had become so hard he could no longer hear...or just flat out ignored the voice of God speaking!

Judas rejects Jesus...so look at the text...Jesus lets him go...

27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, “**What you are about to do, do quickly.**”-Jn 13:27 (NIV)

If you have a heart that draws near to God...God will draw near to you...if you have a heart that pushes away from God...God will let you go...

Now as soon as Judas leaves...Jesus says something interesting to the disciples...Notice how He changes the subject...

31 When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. 32 If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. Notice that Jesus uses the word glorified/glorify 5 times! What’s He saying?

He’s saying everything is now set in motion...The eggs for the omelet have been scrambled...

Judas has left, and when he comes back he’s going to have soldiers with him...Those soldiers are going to arrest Jesus...And Jesus will be tried, beaten and crucified...

There’s no turning back from what’s going to happen...but it’s not going to end in defeat...it’s going to end in victory! God will be glorified!

God will work it all out for good...And whatever you’re going through today...

God will work it out for your good and His glory!
That's a promise!

Now just as the disciples are trying to wrap their minds around what Jesus is saying...

He drops another bombshell... **33 “My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.**

You've got to feel for the disciples...they just got the news that one of them is going to betray Him...Now He's talking about being glorified...and leaving them...

Wait what? What are you talking about? Jesus why are you leaving? They think He's going on a trip...But He's talking about dying and going to heaven...

34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

35 *By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*”-Jn 13:31–35 (NIV)

Judas is going to betray Me...
God is going to get the victory...
Here's what the people of God need to do...
Love!

They were already called to “Love God with all of their heart, soul, mind and strength, and love their neighbor as themselves...”

But now Jesus is giving them a new commandment...Don't love like you love...
Love like I love...

I'm the new standard how you should love...How did Jesus love? Sacrificially, Unconditionally...

Our love has boundaries...it has strings attached...it expects to be loved back...That's not the way Jesus loves...

Jesus loves us way more than we love us...By the way...

The only way to love like Jesus, is to be born-again. To have the Holy Spirit living inside of us! He gives us the power to love like Jesus!

And notice that Jesus says...everyone will know that you are my disciples because you read your Bible? Because you Tithe? Because you lead a ministry? No...They will see the love of Jesus in you for each other...That will be a sign...

All through the Bible God's people were given a sign to identify who they were following...

The sign that you followed Abraham was circumcision...

The sign that you followed Moses was keeping the Sabbath...

The sign that you followed John the Baptist was that you were baptized...

The sign to everyone that you follow Jesus is that you love one another like Jesus loves you...

Even those who talk about you...even those who don't like you...even those who have betrayed and hurt you...

Question...is there another brother or sister in Christ that you're finding hard to love? Are you holding a grudge? An offense? Refusing to forgive? Don't hold onto those things...They give the devil a foothold!

You say I can't...Not in your own strength...but the Holy Spirit can help you do it...if you let Him!

We live in a world that is dark, cold and evil...So when we as followers of Jesus love one another we stand out...

We can love because we are loved by God...
We can forgive because we are forgiven by God...

Now I picture the disciples kind of looking at Jesus like...huh? You see, they're not going to connect all the dots until after the resurrection...

36 Simon Peter asked him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus replied, “Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.” Now again, Peter is thinking that Jesus is taking a trip somewhere...He’s talking about going to heaven...

Jesus says someday you will follow but not now... **37 Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.”** Peter is over confident...He doesn't understand his own weakness...He doesn't need to lay down his life for Jesus...Jesus needs to lay down His life for Peter!

38 Then Jesus answered, “Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!-Jn 13:36–38 (NIV)

How many of us are like this? We're like Lord I've got this! I'm going to do this for you...And just like Peter we really mean it! Lord, I'm ready to lay down my life for you! Fail...Fall flat on your face!

Lessons from Peter...

Peter was a **RESPONDER** instead of a **REACTOR**

Man, do I relate to Peter!

Peter was the guy who gets caught up in the moment...He says the first thing that comes to his mind...And it's usually the wrong thing...

Remember the time that Jesus explains that He's got to go to the cross and die for our sins, but in three days He'll be back...Remember what Peter did?

Matthew tells us...

22 But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things.

“Heaven forbid, Lord,” he said. “This will never happen to you!” 23 Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me.

You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's.”-Mt 16:22–23 (NLT)

We're not that different from Peter...

Remember when Peter walked out of the boat but panicked when he saw the storm?

We panic as soon as a storm of life comes our way...

Later on Peter will draw his sword and start swinging when he feels threatened...

We get defensive and start saying things...only today our sword is our phone...we post all kinds of crazy things...going at each other on social media...

How about this one...

Here's Peter...I'll lay my life down for You Jesus! I got You Jesus...

In just a couple of hours big bad Peter is going to be afraid of a little slave girl...He's going to tell her...he doesn't know Jesus...

We do the same thing when we decide to stay silent about Jesus to our friends, family, co-workers

Peter lacked spiritual **DISCIPLINE**

He had great intentions but couldn't follow through...Jesus, I got your back...a couple hours later when Jesus asks him to pray...he can't even pray for an hour...

That's us all day...

Prayer? Bible Reading? Fasting?

Peter lacked spiritual **DISCERNMENT**

Peter lacked discernment...we lack discernment...

Again, he let his emotions get in the way and he misjudged Jesus' mission...He told Jesus that He wasn't going to go to the cross...

Hello...That was His mission!

We do the same things...

We try to fight spiritual battles in our own strength...

We ignore the Holy Spirit's promptings...

We see the world through our cultural bias instead of through the Word of God...

Peter wasn't **SELF-AWARE**

He really believed that he was strong enough...that willpower alone could get him through...If our confidence is in our ability...we will fail every time!

Peter's going to learn these lessons over time...and it's going to hurt...He's going to deny Jesus just like Jesus said He would!

A big lesson from Jesus

Jesus is **FAITHFUL** even when we are not

Through it all, betrayal, denial...Jesus never stops loving His disciples...Through it all Jesus remained faithful...

Betrayal didn't change His love...
Denial didn't change His mission...
His disciples' failure didn't change His grace...

The good news today is that God's grace is greater than our failures...

We know that although Peter denies Jesus...Jesus forgives Him, restores Him...

Peter becomes a powerful leader in the early church...God used Peter in miraculous ways...And you know what?

Jesus was right...Peter did follow Jesus...Church history tells us that Peter did lay down his life for Jesus...He was crucified upside by Emperor Nero in Rome...

“Peter could never die for Jesus, until Jesus first died for him. And that’s how it is for you and I isn’t it? We could never lay down our lives for anyone else until we receive the life that Jesus laid down for us.” -David Guzik

As we close today, I want to point out that both Judas and Peter failed...Peter denied Jesus...Judas betrayed Him...

But the difference is how they reacted to their failure...

Peter repented...

Judas, although he felt sorry for what he did stayed away from Jesus

Peter trusted in God’s grace and mercy...

Judas turned away from it...

Peter was restored...followed Jesus to heaven

Judas was destroyed...and is in hell

The good news today is that our failure isn't final...There's grace and mercy for us all...

Jesus offers it to us freely...All we have to do is respond to His voice, surrender our hearts, repent of our sin...

Maybe today you're struggling with loving others...give it to Jesus

Maybe you're struggling to forgive someone...give it to Jesus

Maybe you're struggling with a secret sin...give it to Jesus...Ask the Holy Spirit to help you respond to His conviction...

Maybe you're struggling because right now...life's circumstances just don't make sense...ask Jesus to help you trust Him in a deeper way...

What's the Holy Spirit Saying To Me?

Altar Time