

Parting Words: Betrayed

John 13:18-30

Small Group Discussion

Intro Questions (try to get everyone involved in discussion):

- When you were young, how did your parents or guardians get your attention when you were in trouble?
 - In this week's passage, we see Jesus capturing his disciples' attention to tell them something shocking, but important.

Pray: Invite the Holy Spirit to be present and to guide your study and discussion of God's word.

Read John 13:18-30, then discuss the following.

- There was much in this passage that we didn't have time to unpack on Sunday morning. What are some details or observations that jump out at you on reading this passage? What are some questions that you have about it? Before you go any farther, see if among your group, you can understand what these details mean and answer any questions that might arise.
- What about Jesus' words, demeanor, or actions would have immediately captured the disciples' attention in this scene?
- Many of us who have a Christian background are desensitized to the idea that Jesus was betrayed. From your own experience, what does it feel like to be betrayed by someone you love or trust?
 - If you are comfortable sharing more about your experience of betrayal, feel free to do so. Where are you in the healing journey presently?
- In Jesus' prediction of his betrayal, he quotes Psalm 41:9. If you have time, read that whole Psalm. Why do you think Jesus referenced the Psalm, rather than just saying what he had to say?
- Several aspects of v. 21 show us that Jesus was profoundly moved when he uttered this sentence. Why do you think that was the case?
 - What would have been shocking about Jesus' words in this verse, if you were present at this Supper?
- Read v. 22 again. Try to go back before you knew that Judas Iscariot was a traitor. What are the implications of John's observation in this verse?
 - On Sunday, Pastor Josh said that the fact no one suspected Judas to be the traitor says this about us: **We can be very good at looking faithful and devoted on the outside while inwardly walking away from Jesus.**
 - How does this statement strike you? Does it resonate with your own experience, or do you feel resistance to it?
 - What might our response be, practically, to this realization?
- Why do you think that Jesus didn't tell the whole group who the traitor was (vv. 23-26: it seems that he only gave this information, surreptitiously, to John)?

- Leon Morris, a renowned New Testament scholar, makes this comment about vv. 26-30: “John sees this as the critical moment. If the giving of the [bread] was a mark of favor or the like, it would be in the nature of a final appeal to Judas. But Judas did not respond. He gave himself the more fully to Satan's leading.”
 - From a human perspective, what do you think of this interchange between Jesus and Judas? What does it show you about Jesus? About yourself?
 - What do you think that John means when he says, “And it was night” (v. 30)?
 - Is there any word of warning for us in this interchange?
- Based on v. 19, why does Jesus bother to tell his disciples that he will be betrayed?
 - What is significant about his wording, “you will believe that I am who I am?”
 - What two things (at least) does this statement show us about Jesus?
 - How does it make you feel about Jesus to know that he willingly experienced this kind of betrayal from one of his closest friends? How does it impact your experiences of betrayal?
- Why do you think Jesus did not stop the betrayal plot when he had the foreknowledge and power to do so?
- On Sunday, Josh said that because Jesus was willing to walk into the trap of being betrayed and crucified, “all of your worst betrayals are able to be turned into something beautiful.” (See Romans 8:18 and 2 Cor. 4:17).
 - Have you ever experienced this kind of redemption in an area where you’ve been betrayed?
 - Practically, how can we begin to move in this direction when we’ve been deeply wounded?

PRAYER:

- If some in your group are still dealing with the wounds of betrayal, pray for them to experience God’s comfort and healing.
- If you haven’t already shared about other particular needs in your life, be sure to do that, and pray for one another.