

Prayer:

Slide # 1

Theme: *Christ the King*

Outline:

- Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)
- Chp. 3 The Forerunner of the King and the King’s baptism.
- Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation; and exhibiting His kingdom resume.)
- Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in the wisdom of His kingdom teaching.)
- Chps. 8-10 The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)
- Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.
- Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.
- Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.
- Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.
- Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.
- Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.
- Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.**
- Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

The last week of Christ’s earthly ministry was a busy one. In the early part of the week, we see mounting tensions of the religious leaders towards Jesus. They couldn’t trick or entrap Him verbally so they decided they just needed to take Him out.

On Wednesday of Passion Week the chief priests, scribes, elders, and the high priest assembled to plot the death of Christ as seen in Matt. 26:3-5. They were trying to figure how to go about it, but the one thing they all agreed on is that it must not take place during the Passover feast.

Then Matthew inserts a flash back story to several days earlier when Mary had anointed Jesus with expensive oil in preparation for Christ’s burial.

The disciples led by Judas were indignant at such waste but Jesus defended her saying, ‘she has done a good work for Me” (Mt. 24:10).

Thematically Matthew segues from the story about Mary to the story about Judas the betrayer. Mary expresses love to the uttermost in response to Jesus’ predictions of His impending death. In contrast, Judas demonstrates betrayal to the uttermost thinking he wants to get out of it what he can while the getting is still good.

Mary was all about Jesus, while Judas was all about self. We remember Mary in honor, but the name Judas is synonymous with the worst kind of character.

We saw earlier in Matthew 26:3-5 that the religious leaders were plotting to kill Jesus. The storyline now continues with the part that Judas plays as we pick up the narrative at Matthew 26:14.

Matthew 26:14–25 (NKJV)

14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests

Many of the commentators bring out that what seems to have triggered Judas to go to the religious leaders with idea of betraying Jesus for money was the episode with Mary and how Jesus had put Judas and the disciples in their place over that incident.

Recall that in the parallel text of John 12 it very clearly says Judas was the instigator complaining about Mary wasting the costly perfume. And then it specifically says it was not that Judas cared about the poor but rather he was a thief in charge of the money box (Jn. 12:4-6). This gives insight into the heart of Judas showing he was all about greed and what he could get out of his position as an “apostle”. For him it was not at all about Jesus, but rather all about Judas.

So being shut down by Jesus in the confrontation over Mary’s act of love and devotion, Judas then goes to the chief priests to betray Jesus for what he can get out of it. You see he too had heard Jesus talking about His coming crucifixion and thought he might as well get out of it what he can since the end is at hand – not realizing WHO Jesus truly was.

Note the emphasis here when it says, “one of the twelve”. The enormity of the sin was that this was done by a privileged insider.

His name was “Judas Iscariot”. His great sin of betrayal was entirely premeditated and totally intentional. He sinned against the greatest amount of light possible.

Being one of the twelve he had lived and traveled with Jesus for 3 years. He had seen His miracles up close and personal. He had even himself been empowered by Jesus to do miracles. He witnessed the incomparable teaching of Christ; he saw His impeccable character day in and day out.

And yet in spite of all that “light” he now goes to the chief priests to betray Jesus for a few pieces of silver. Who can fathom the depths of human depravity? It is scary terrible.

15 and said, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?” And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.

This was an insulting pittance. According to Exodus 21:32 this was to be the reimbursement fee for an injured slave.

Slide # 2

Exodus 21:32 (NKJV)

32 If the ox gores a male or female servant, he shall give to their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.

The words “counted out to him” (Gk. histemi/counted) are more literally are more literally translated “***they weighed out to him***”. This is how the LXX (the Greek translation of the OT called the Septuagint) translates it in Zechariah 11:12. (cf. 1 Kg. 20:39; 2 Kg. 21:39).

Slide # 3

Zechariah 11:12 (NKJV)

12 Then I said to them, “If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain.” **So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.**

This was the value they put on the One Who healed their sick beyond measure; Who healed all the blind, lame, deaf, and demon-possessed that came to Him; the One Who fed their multitudes; the One Who constantly went about “doing good” as it says in Acts 10:38.

Zechariah 11:13 ironically indicates the absurdity of the little value they put on the Messiah's life.

Slide # 4

Zechariah 11:13 (NKJV)

13 And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—**that princely price** they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter.

What a contrast! Mary had anointed Jesus with costly perfume valued at about 300 hundred denarii – that is about a years worth of labor. But in contrast, Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver which scholars estimate was valued was perhaps about 4 months worth of wages. The point is it was a relatively small amount for which to sell out Jesus.

That such an act of treachery should follow on the wonderful act of worship was divine irony. – ***Ed Glasscock***

16 So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

With money in hand Judas then sought for an opportunity to betray Jesus. The time was going to come earlier than the chief priests had ever imagined and certainly not at the time they planned or expected – that is right on Passover.

17 Now on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?"

Probably no harmonistic problem in the Gospels has been as perplexing as the one presented here.

– ***Wycliffe Bible Commentary***

Here is the problem: The synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) indicate that Jesus and His disciples partook of Passover on Thursday evening while the gospel of John indicates that Passover took place on Friday evening (cf. Jn. 13:1; 13:29; 18:28; 19:14, 31). What is the answer to this perplexing dilemma?

Various possible answers have been put forth, and without being dogmatic, the one that makes the most sense to me is the idea that there were 2 different calendars in use by the Jews at this time.

The Jews up north from where Jesus and the disciples hailed from (all except Judas who was from Judea) had one calendar that reckoned Passover a day earlier than the calendar used by those down south in area of Jerusalem.

From Josephus, the Mishna and other ancient Jewish sources we learn that the Jews in northern Palestine calculated days from sunrise to sunrise. ...Apparently, most, if not all, of the Pharisees used that system of reckoning. But Jews in the southern part, which centered in Jerusalem, calculated days from sunset to sunset. ...

On that basis the seeming contradictions in the gospel accounts are easily explained. Being Galileans, Jesus and the disciples considered Passover day to have started at sunrise on Thursday and to end at sunrise on Friday. The Jewish leaders who arrested and tried Jesus, being mostly priests and Sadducees, considered Passover day to begin at sunset on Thursday and end at sunset on Friday. By that variation, predetermined by God's sovereign provision, Jesus could thereby legitimately celebrate the last Passover meal with His disciples and yet still be sacrificed on Passover day. – **John MacArthur**

So it was probably Thursday morning when the disciples came to Jesus and asked Him "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?"

Note it says here it was "the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread". Technically, Passover was on the 14th of the month of Nisan with the Feast of Unleavened Bread immediately following from the 15th through the 21st of Nisan. During the feast of Unleavened Bread the Jews were forbidden to use yeast in their bread or have it in their house. However, Exodus 12:18 says the yeast was to be removed from the house on Nisan 14 which was Passover day and was not to be eaten until the 21st.

Therefore, Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread came to be seen essentially as a unit of one as the one blended and segued into the other (cf. Lk. 2:41; 22:1, 7; Jn. 2:23; 6:4; 13:1; 19:31, 42; Acts 12:3-4).

Slide # 5

Luke 22:1 (NKJV)

1 Now the **Feast of Unleavened Bread** drew near, which is **called Passover**.

That seems to be the sense here in Matt. 26:17. The “**first day of the Feast of Unleavened bread**” was actually Passover as seen in the fact that the disciples went that day to prepare the Passover which they ate later that night.

Slide # 6

N I S A N						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 PASSOVER
15	16 FIRSTFRUITS	17	18	19	20	21 FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

As I say, it was evidently early in the day on Thursday when the disciples asked Jesus about where to prepare for the Passover supper. The two disciples sent to do this task according to Luke 22:8 were Peter and John.

Slide # 7

Luke 22:8 (NKJV)

8 And He sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat.”

18 And He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, “My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.” ’ ”

At this point Jesus is very secretive about where they would meet. It says in John 11:57 that the “**Pharisees had given a command, that if anyone knew where He [Jesus] was he should report it, that they might seize Him.**” Add to this that Matt. 26:16 says Judas was looking for an opportunity to **betray** Him which more literally means to “**hand over**” and is translated as “**deliver**” in verse 15.

If Judas knew where they were meeting that night he would undoubtedly immediately have informed the chief priests and they would have come and interrupted the “Last Supper” before Jesus had finished what He wanted to share with the disciples. In Luke 22:15 Jesus said, “**With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer**”. This was a very important meeting and nothing was to get in the way of it or disrupt it.

And so Jesus in a clandestine way that would make sure things are kept a secret instructed the disciples (Peter and John) to go into the city (Jerusalem) and there they would find a certain man whom they were to interact with about where to have the Passover Dinner. Luke adds this detail...

Slide # 8

Luke 22:10–12 (NKJV)

10 And He said to them, “**Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water;** follow him into the house which he enters.

11 Then you shall say to **the master of the house**, ‘The Teacher says to you, “Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?” ’

12 Then he will show you a large, furnished **upper room**; there make ready.”

Normally men in that society did not carry water – only women. So he would have been very conspicuous. Jesus supernaturally knew exactly where this man would providentially be and what he would be doing. We have no idea who this man was or who the master of the house was.

It is surmised that either Jesus set this up ahead of time or He just supernaturally knew what the response of the master of the house would be. Jesus was evidently well known as “The Teacher” and this man was evidently a follower of Christ.

Notice Jesus says to tell the man, “The Teacher says, ‘***My time is at hand***; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.” Clearly, Jesus knew exactly what was going down and the timetable He was on. Throughout the ministry of Christ it was repeatedly said that His hour had not yet come and therefore no harm could come to Him (cf. John 7:30; 8:20). But now His time had come (cf. John 2:23, 27, 13:1; 17:1).

The timing of the death of Christ is a MAJOR emphasis in the whole surrounding context. It was all orchestrated by God! In Matthew 26:2 Jesus just two days prior to the crucifixion told the disciples with explicit precision that it would happen exactly on PASSOVER. Now we find in verse 18 Jesus emphasizing that His time is at hand. Timing belongs to God.

As David said in Psalm 31:15, “***My times are in Your hand***’.

Again, in Psalm 139:16 he says, ***“in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.”***

Slide # 9

Job 14:5 (NKJV)

5 Since his **days are determined**, The number of his **months is with You**; You have **appointed his limits**, so that he cannot pass.

At the end of his life Paul said, ***“I have finished the course”*** (2 Tim. 4:7). God has a specific course for each one of us. We run our lap and then on to glory in perfect accord with God’s timing and timetable that He has for us.

According to Luke, the man would make available his large upper room to accommodate them. Typical of the homes of the well-to-do at this time had the main dwelling on the ground level and a banquet or guest room was on the upper level. This is where we get the idea of the ***“Upper Room Discourse”*** as shared in John 13-14.

Slide # 10

Upper Room – John 13-14
In Route to Gethsemane – John 15-17



Slide # 11

Mark 14:16 (NKJV)

16 So His disciples went out, and came into the city, **and found it just as He had said to them**; and they prepared the Passover.

I love this statement that they “found it just as He had said”. Years ago there was a car salesman and his TV pitch was that when people showed up they would find everything to be exactly as he said it would be. I don’t know about that – I never tested him.

But I do believe that when we show up everything will be exactly as Jesus says. When Jesus says He goes to prepare a place for us – when we show up it will be just as He has promised. It's always that way with Jesus – we always find it just as He says.

19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover.

20 When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve.

Scholars believe that Jesus and the disciples probably reclined at a low U shaped table for an occasion such as this. Each person would prop themselves up on an elbow and eat with the other hand with their feet pointing away from the table.

Slide # 12



We know from John 13:23 that John was reclining at the Lord's right side, and it is surmised that Judas may have been on His left because John 13:26 says that after Jesus dipped the bread He gave it to Judas which would indicate he was right close.

Matthew summarizes and condenses the events of this night in the Upper Room. Looking at all the gospels we believe the order of events was something close to this.

Slide # 13

Order of Events on Crucifixion Eve

Eating the Passover (Jn. 13:1-2)

Washing the disciples' feet (Jn. 13:3-20)

Identifying Judas as the Betrayer (Jn. 13:21-26)

Judas leaves (Jn. 13:27-30)

Institution of the Lord's Supper (Mt. 26:26-29)

Upper Room Discourse (John 14)

In Route to Gethsemane (John 15-16)

Christ's High Priestly Prayer (John 17)

Anguish in Gethsemane (Mt. 26:36-46)

The Betrayal and Arrest (Mt. 26:47-56)

21 Now as they were eating, He said, “Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.”

Here we again have additional brand new revelation. The disciples had already been told that Christ was going to be delivered to the chief priests who in turn would deliver Him to the Gentiles who would crucify Him (Mt. 20:18-19). In addition, Jesus had then revealed that it was going to happen on Passover as noted in Matthew 26:2. Now Christ adds more to the story and this is a revelatory bomb that will stun the entire group.

“Assuredly” [Gk. amen] meaning a strong affirmation of “truly” or “indeed”. **“Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.”** It is one of you sitting right here at the table right now. That was shocking. And should have been especially shocking to Judas since he has just been to the chief priests and gotten paid off to do this very thing.

Jesus had previously revealed that He would be “delivered up” (Mt. 17:22; 20:18; 26:2), but this is the first time that He made it known that it would be by one of the twelve.

That Jesus knew what was in Judas’ heart but never let on to the other disciples is a remarkable testimony to His patience and self-control. – ***The Moody Bible Commentary***

This showed Jesus’ omniscience – that He knows all things – even what is going on in the heart of a person (cf. Jn. 2:25; 4:29).

22 And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, “Lord, is it I?”

This shocking announcement caused immediate great sorrow and consternation. Amazingly no one looked at Judas or anyone else with an accusing finger. Judas had played the game so well that no one knew – other than the Lord that he was a total hypocrite.

Judas is an archetype of hypocritical insider who is not real. Even the Lord had one of these in His group of disciples. These people play the game so well that they fool everyone – at least for a time. In the case of Judas he had everybody fooled until the end. He was good at deception.

The bible says that in the “last days perilous times will come” (2 Tim. 4:1). They will be dangerous times because they are days of apostasy.

They are times when people will still have a form of godliness (going through motions of being a Christian) but deny the life-changing power of a true relationship with God. They will say things like, “I can’t help who I am in my perversion because I was born this way.” Exactly, that is why you need to be born again. But they will deny this reality.

2 Tim. 3:13 says, “***evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.***” The last days of the Church Age are perilous times because apostasy and deception in a professing church context will be rampant. And that my friends is where we live.

Andy Stanley is the son of the famous preacher Charles Stanley. A few years ago he came out and said we need to “***unhitch***” from the Old Testament. That caused no small stir (and rightly so). The very gospel is steeped in the OT being according to the OT Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:3-4). The basics of creation, family, and morals, are all steeped in the OT. Most of prophecy, is steeped in the OT. Paul said, it’s all profitable (2 Tim. 3:16) – but now Andy Stanley says we need to “***unhitch***” from it?

Andy pastors North Point Community Church in Atlanta Georgia and boasts an average attendance of **more than 38,000 people** weekly across eight locations.

This week I read a critique of Andy by Bill Honsberger who heads up Haven Ministries. He reports...

“Andy has come out of the closet as it were, that Christians need to embrace unrepentant gay people in the church and even bless gay marriage as an option for the evangelical church. [No wonder he wants to “unhitch” from the OT]. ... [Andy] then talked about how “gay Christians” he knew were the most serious Christians he had ever known... He went on to say how the heterosexual Christians have so much to learn from the “gay Christians.” ...In another sermon I watched repeatedly Andy said that just because Jesus says something, that doesn’t make it true!!!

That my friends is coming from a pastor of one of the largest “evangelical” churches in the United States. We have to be discerning. Some of the stuff that these large “evangelical churches” are putting out is pure poison. I don’t want to associate with them at all – their teachings – their songs – whatever. The Bible says, “from such people turn away!” (2 Tim. 3:5). The Judases are still with us. They are deceivers and they are good at it.

Footnote: For about 6 months the disciples had been haggling among themselves about who among them was to be the greatest in the kingdom (Mt. 18:1-4; Mk. 9:33-37; Lk. 9:46-48). Jesus had strongly corrected them, but they were still dealing with this spirit – even here on the eve of the crucifixion.

Slide # 14

Luke 22:21–24 (NKJV)

21 But behold, the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table.

22 And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!"

23 Then they **began to question among themselves, which of them it was who would do this thing.**

24 Now there was **also a dispute** among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.

In the Greek their question, "**Lord, is it I?**" expects a negative answer. So the sense is, "**It is not I, is it?**" The language here cautiously expects that the answer is that it is not them – but because of their own human weakness seen in their own disputing even that night – they wondered aloud if it could even be them.

They were appalled at the thought of a betrayer, never suspected Judas, had no idea who it might be, even to the point that each one painfully cries out, "Lord is it I?" "Master is it I". The word "Lord" means Master. If Jesus is truly your Master you want to be loyal. And that is the great issue in view.

23 He answered and said, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me.

This in effect was another affirmation that it was one of them because they were probably all using a common bowl – at least those close to where Jesus was reclining at the table. This too was in fulfillment of prophecy given 1000 years previously as seen in Psalm 41.

Slide # 15

Psalm 41:9 (NKJV)

9 Even my **own familiar friend** in whom I trusted, **Who ate my bread**, Has lifted up his heel against me.

John 13:18 (NKJV)

18 “I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, ‘He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.’”

To eat with someone in this culture signified friendship. This dastardly deed was coming from a “friend” – someone who was close to Jesus – so close they were eating out of the same dish. This serves to heighten the enormity of the betrayal. This was off the charts atrocious.

We find in John’s account in John 13 that Peter motioned to John who was sitting right by Jesus to ask Him specifically whom it was that He spoke of. Jesus then told John, ***“It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it.”*** And then John 13:26 says, ***“And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.”***

24 The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.”

What an amazing verse. All the alarms in the world should have been going off in the head of Judas. But alas he has hardened himself to the point of no return – although he had every opportunity.

Son of Man is a Messianic title grounded in the OT in places such as Dan. 7:13-14 (cf. Ps. 8:4; etc.). The term is used by Jesus 80 times in the gospels as a way to refer to Himself as the promised Messiah (32 times in Matthew; 14 times in **Mark**; 26 times in Luke; and 10 times in John). Thus, it was Christ’s favorite Messianic title used of Himself for Himself.

He said, ***“The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him”***. This was destiny – prophesied destiny just as it was written in the Old Testament prophecies. Probably in view are texts such as Psalm 22, Daniel 9, and the servant passages in Isaiah climaxing with Isaiah 53. Luke 22:22 says, ***“truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined”***. This has sovereignty written all over it.

And yet there is a ***“but”*** in the sentence: ***“but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.”***

Sovereignty does not remove human responsibility from the equation.

Verse 24 presents the mysterious balance between divine sovereignty and human responsibility. Cf. also Ac 2:23-24; 4:27-28. God determined the time and circumstances of Jesus' death, and brought them about through the sinful actions of Judas. But this neither absolved Judas of guilt nor placed upon God the moral culpability of Judas's treachery. – *The Moody Bible Commentary*

Slide # 16

Divine sovereignty and human responsibility are not in conflict, even though we may not be able to understand how they work together to fulfill God's will. – *Warren Wiersbe*

25 Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, “Rabbi, is it I?” He said to him, “You have said it.”

It's almost like after the spontaneous outburst of all the other disciples crying out, “Lord, is it I?” – then after a pause Judas in keeping with his deceptive ways also chimes in saying, “*Rabbi, is it I!*”.

Had Judas not said to Jesus the same thing as the others, he would have become suspect. He therefore imitated their astonished disbelief and parroted their anxious queries to the Lord. He even called Jesus Rabbi, as if to reinforce his feigned loyalty.

– *John MacArthur*

But notice the change in language between what the other disciples said and what Judas said.

Slide # 17

The disciples: “Lord, is it I?”

Judas: “Rabbi, is it I?”

There seems to be a point of emphasis here. There is no record of Judas ever calling Jesus “Lord” (cf. v. 49). He was not recognized by Judas as Master. Judas was his own man – or so he thought – when in reality Satan was his master. In contrast, all the other disciples did truly recognize Jesus as their Master – feeble as they were.

Rabbi means “**esteemed teacher**” but for Judas, even this was a total ruse as he had no esteem for Jesus in any way shape or form - for he had just betrayed him for 30 pieces of silver. It was purely a hypocritical response!

Occasionally there are those who want to call Jesus a great teacher but refuse to own Him as Lord. Judas outwardly was in this category!

C.S. Lewis responded to this depraved foolishness in this way.

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.” – **C.S. Lewis**

The truly saved recognize Jesus as Lord and not merely a good teacher. When in faith people recognize Jesus as Lord they are recognizing Him as sovereign Master – as their God-Master.

Earlier in the evening in John 13:13 in the context of washing their feet Jesus had said to them, “You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am.” And then He went on to say that they should do as He had done for “a servant is not greater than his master” (Jn. 13:16). Yes, Jesus was the Master Teacher, but He was more than just a great teacher, He is Lord. He is the Teacher Who is also Lord.

The rest of the disciples got this, but not Judas. To Judas He was just “Rabbi”. To the rest of them, He was “Lord”. And so it is for all true believers. We believe on “the Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 16:31).

In response to the hypocritical question of Judas, “**Rabbi is it I?**” Jesus immediately responded with, “**You have said it**” which is to say “**Yes**”. And then dismissed him from the meeting. After this exchange, we read in John 13...

Slide # 18

John 13:27 (NKJV)

27 Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly.”

John 13:30 (NKJV)

30 Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.

Jesus, indeed truly being Lord, told Judas ***“What you do, do quickly.”*** Even now Jesus was still Lord and in charge. And Judas did as the Lord said, and the Bible says he went out, ***“And it was night.”*** Oh, how haunting is that phrase? It was night in the soul of Judas. It was as dark as dark could be! His experience then was not merely demon possession, but indeed that of being fully given over to the devil. Judas was literally possessed by the devil himself.

When I was in Bible college we had a speaker come who emphasized that there are always those who fall away. And his line was ***“Never be shocked – always be grieved.”*** He said, it won’t be long and there will be an empty chair – there will be someone who you thought was with the Lord, but has clearly come to abandon the Lord.

“Never be shocked -always be grieved”. That always has stuck with me. And it is so true! Apostasy is a real thing – a scary thing. People we never suspected were not genuine end up walking away. People that seem to be so sincere end up abandoning the faith. Happens all the time. ***“Never be shocked – always be grieved”***.

“A member of our church went to jail for several years. Suffice it to say that he’d done bad things. His incarceration, however, caught our congregation by surprise. No one would have suspected him of living a double life – even those who lived with him. In sorrow, he now tells me how he had mastered [the act] of Christian piety, the kind of social gestures and grammar that appear to manifest genuine faith. Our church member was an extreme case of hypocrisy.”

– **Pastor Benjamin Vrbicek**

Two questions: “Lord is it I?” and “Rabbi is it I?” The genuine know Jesus as Lord and in horror cry out “Lord is it I?” even at the thought of being unfaithful to the Lord. The hardened hypocritical phony plays along, “Rabbi is it I?” all the while being totally disingenuous.

Are you a true disciple or are you a Judas? That is the ultimate question.

Do you truly know Jesus as Lord or are you just playing along?

2 Corinthians 13:5 (NKJV)

5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

Ultimately your relationship with the Lord is between you and the Lord. No one can do it for you! Everyone has to do their own believing, their own dying, and their own accounting.

In the end the ultimate issue is Jesus and whether or not He is truly your Lord and Savior! As the NT says over and over, “***Do not be deceived!***”

Hell is full of deceived people. And self-deception is the worst kind of deception. The Bible calls those who claim to be Christian and yet live a double life “***liars***” and Rev. 21:8 says all liars will have their part in the lake of fire.

In truth, is Jesus your Lord or are you a liar living a double life? Come clean today. Come to Jesus today. In your heart truly believe on Him and you will be forgiven. Your life will be changed.

The Bible says, “Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts” (Heb. 3:7-8). It says, “now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2). The invitation is “Come!... Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.” (Rev. 22:17).

Psalm 145:18 (NKJV)

18 The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.

God help us to be those who call upon Him in truth!