

# GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 02.12.2023

LOVE AND BETRAYAL – JOHN 13:18-38

## Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel says "There are two predominant themes in today's study. They are betrayal and love. Our story begins with Judas' betraying Jesus and ends with Jesus predicting Peter's betrayal. Sandwiched in-between those stories, Jesus talks about the absolute necessity of love. I don't think it's an accident that John puts these stories together. Judas and Peter are similar in several key respects. Both men were disciples. Both took part in Jesus' ministry. And both failed the Lord miserably and felt bad about what they had done. However, while one of them was restored and went on to become a leader in the early church, the other went out and hung himself and was lost forever. Speaking of Judas, Jesus said, 'It would have been better if that man had never been born.' {Mark 14:21} What was the difference between them? That's what I want to look at with you today." Let's get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from this week's sermon?
2. Have you ever been betrayed by a friend (John 13:18)?
3. What emotions did you experience?

## Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

**HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 13:18-20**

1. What does Jesus mean by, "He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me" (John 13:18)?
2. Is He saying this so that they can try to stop the betrayer? Explain?
3. Did Jesus wash the feet of Judas Iscariot as well? If you knew someone was about to betray you, would you have been as kind as Jesus was?

Although Christ had chosen the twelve disciples, He knew that one of the disciples was not a true follower. Christ here speaks of the fact that the disciple who eats bread with Him will be the one who will lift up his heel against Christ. Christ says that He was telling the disciples ahead of time so that they would believe Him when it happened. The disciples did not understand yet. Christ knew that they would not understand until it actually happened.

**HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 13:21-30.**

1. What does the disciples being "perplexed" (John 13:22) when Jesus said, "One of you will betray me" (John 13:21) tell about Judas Iscariot? What does it say about Jesus?
2. Are there betrayers of Christ in the church today? What are they like in the modern church?

## *"PROMISES" in 2023*

Christ went on to tell the disciples more about the one that would betray Him. We read that Peter did not understand what Christ meant so he motioned to the disciple who was sitting next to Christ. Peter wanted that disciple to ask Christ what He meant. The name of the disciple who was sitting next to Christ is not mentioned. However, we are told something about that disciple.

3. Who is the disciple, whom Jesus loved" (John 13:23)? In your opinion, why did the disciple identify himself in this way?
4. What was he doing "leaning on Jesus' bosom" (John 13:23) and "leaning back on Jesus' breast" (John 13:25)?
5. To whom did Jesus say, "What you do, do quickly" (John 13:27)?

As we study the book of John, we see that John does not use his own name in the book. Instead John always uses some other title to refer to himself. One of the ways John referred to himself was the disciple who Jesus loved. Many people think that John was the youngest of the disciples. Because John was younger, Jesus may have showed a little extra love and concern for him. We need to also show love and concern for young Christians and help and encourage them so that they grow to become mature Christian. I personally think that we are all 'the one Jesus loved.'

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 13:31-38.**

1. Why does Jesus say "Now" the "Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him" (John 13:31)?
2. Is Jesus saying that He Himself isn't "God"? Explain?
3. How will people recognize Jesus' disciples according to this passage?
4. What does Jesus mean by, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward" (John 13:36)? Where is Jesus going?
5. What is Peter saying by, "I will lay down my life for Your sake" (John 13:37)?
6. What does Jesus mean by, "the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times" (John 13:38)?

We read that Satan entered into Judas when he took the piece of food that Christ gave him. Judas had earlier agreed to sell out Christ to the religious leaders for thirty pieces of silver. Because Judas had chosen to reject Christ, Satan now controlled him. This is what may happen to any person who continually rejects Christ. The disciples did not realize that Judas was going to betray Christ. They thought he was going to buy some food or possibly give some money to the poor.

### **Applying God's Word**

**What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.**

**Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.**

Both Peter and Judas failed the Lord terribly. In some respects, you could make an argument that Peter's denial was as bad as if not worse than Judas' betrayal. Peter denied the Lord three times! And yet we know that Peter was ultimately restored while Judas was lost forever. What was the difference between Peter and Judas? In a word: love. While both men failed the Lord miserably, and both men went out and wept bitterly, only Peter repented. Peter loved the Lord deeply. Judas did not. Judas may have admired Jesus at one point. He may have been impressed by Him. But he never gave Jesus his heart. And at the end of the day, that's what God is after. You and I are all Peter. We have each failed the Lord and betrayed Him. The good news is our failures don't have to define our destiny. God used Peter again and He will use you again. All you have to do is repent and give Him your heart. How do God's promises to you provide comfort in your times of need? How does the assurance of His presence make a difference when harm threatens?

1. What is the difference between living for Jesus and allowing Jesus to live in and through us?

## ***“PROMISES” in 2023***

2. What does it look like to be a follower of Christ, explain?
3. How can we live this out this week?

**PRAYER** – Recognize that all of us are sinners saved by the grace of God. Pray for one another that each of us will surrender our lives completely to the Lord. Without Him working in our lives we can do nothing of eternal value.

**"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and, in your name, perform many miracles? Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'" {Matthew 7:21-23}**