

# GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 07.02.2023

THE LAST SUPPER – John 13:21-30

## 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 Evan Wickham shared from John 13 this last weekend. We understand that: “Jesus understood what it means to be betrayed by a close friend. One definition of betrayal is: *“to not be loyal to your country or a person, often by doing something harmful such as helping their enemies.”* 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 actually happened.” 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 Pastor Evan’s sermon?
2. Why do you think shared meals are so often a part of our celebrations in life?

Consider the meals we share together. We rarely gather simply to eat, but also to serve and share with others. We celebrate birthdays, holidays, and special occasions, usually by sharing a meal. These moments at the table communicate something about an event’s importance, and they connect us to each other in a way that other activities do not. This is especially true about the meal told us to celebrate together—the Lord’s Supper.

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

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 13:21-26

Judas had been a successful hypocrite. Jesus’ solemn announcement now forced Judas to act quickly or to repent. Jesus was speaking like a prophet here as things began to unfold and Judas fulfilled what the scriptures said about the betrayer.

1. Why do you think Jesus would invite a betrayer into his inner circle? Why is it important to see Jesus as someone who has a spot at the table for all of us?
2. Have you ever betrayed Jesus in this way, playing the role but harboring unbelief in your heart?
3. Are there betrayers of Christ in the church today? How are they betraying Jesus in our culture today?
4. Who is “one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved” (John 13:23)? Why do you think that John refused to mention that He is the one whom Jesus loved?
5. Judas took the bread that Jesus offered to him and left that night to betray Jesus. Why is it significant that Jesus offered Judas bread instead of singling him out in front of everyone?
6. “Judas looked and sounded authentic but he wasn’t.” How often do you ask God to search your heart for evidences of authentic faith in him?

## *“PROMISES” in 2023*

Judas accepted Jesus’ food but not his love. Instead of repenting, Judas continued to resist. This resistance opened the way for Satan to take control of him in a stronger way than he had done previously (cf. 3:16-19). Evidently Satan himself, rather than just one of his demonic assistants, entered into Judas. This is the only mention of Satan by name in this gospel. Undoubtedly Satan took control because he wanted to destroy Jesus. We should not conclude that Satan necessarily or directly controls everyone who opposes God’s will. Judas’ case was particularly significant in view of the situation.

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN

1. To whom did Jesus say, "What you do, do quickly" (John 13:27)? What does this mean?
2. When did Judas begin to betray Jesus?
3. Did the other disciples hear John’s question, “Lord, who is it?” (John 13:25), and Jesus’ answer to him in John 13:26?
4. In what ways have you been tempted to betray Christ this week through disobedience? Take time today to reflect on His sacrifice and confess your sin.

As the Light of the world was about to depart and return to the Father, the darkness had come at last (John 13:30). Again, the contrast in imagery is clear. **For John, Jesus is the Light of the world, and those who believe in Him come to the light and walk in the light.** At the **opposite extreme is Judas Iscariot, who rejected Jesus, cast in his lot with the powers of darkness,** departed into the darkness, and was swallowed up by it.<sup>3</sup> "Judas was enveloped in an unilluminated night, never to be relieved. He was on the way to his own place.

### Applying God’s Word

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

1. Have you been betrayed by a very close friend or family member? Or have you ever betrayed a close friend or family member? What did you learn about Jesus in that wake of that experience?
2. Jesus is the Lord of the night. When the enemy is at work against us, God is harder at work for us. In what ways have you failed to lay down your fears at the foot of the cross?

**PRAYER** – Begin today’s prayer time by asking for specific requests. Pray specifically for group members’ requests, and that God would provide daily reminders of His incredible sacrifice for us. Pray that the Lord’s Supper and Christ’s sacrifice would have new meaning in each of our lives.

**"And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed." {John 3:19-20}**