

John 13:18-32

18 I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.'

18 Jesus already knew who had cast their lot with Him. He knew those who had chosen Him over their own personal agenda. Even though He knew Judas was going to go his own way for his own purposes, Jesus gave him the seat of honor next to him (presumably to talk with him), washed his feet, handed him a morsel (a sign of honor and relationship), and warned him of the terrible consequences of doing what he was contemplating (Matthew 26:24). Jesus chooses those who choose Him, but He still gives those who will not choose Him every opportunity to change their mind.

The quote is from Psalm 41:9. It was about Ahithophel, and advisor to King David who later betrayed David. Jews saw David's life as a foreshadow of the Messiah. Ahithophel was a type of Judas. He not only joined with the King David's enemy and advised him how to kill David, but when his advice was rejected, he hanged himself. It is amazing how history repeats itself, especially in these prophetic ways.

19 I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.

19 ^{24b} *When this comes, then you will know that I am the Lord GOD.* Ezekiel 24:24b Jesus was almost quoting God word for word. Here is another of the "I am" declarations in John. The original text does not have the word "He", just "I am", the equivalent of YHWH! In other words, "When one of you friends betrays me (specifically one who shares my bread – a literal and figurative expression), remember that I told you this would happen.

20 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

20 This is another of Jesus' "Amen, amen" listen up declarations. If someone accepts you, they accept Jesus, which is to accept God. If you are faithfully representing Jesus, their receiving you is receiving God. Jesus may have been encouraging His disciples that even though one of them would fall, their mission was still just as important. We can take that to heart as well. We get discouraged when someone backslides, especially if the person is a leader, but we still have this life-giving mission of introducing people to our living Lord. Do not be discouraged.

21 After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." 22 The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. 23 One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table close to Jesus, 24 so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. 25 So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?"

21-25 Jesus returned to the topic of betrayal. The disciples were rightfully upset and trying to figure out who it was or what Jesus meant. Simon must have been next to

John who was to the right of Jesus. He asked John to ask Jesus who it was. Peter must have thought Jesus would be more inclined to tell John. If Peter knew, Peter might make sure the traitor never talked again. John leaned back onto Jesus' chest and asked who it was.

26 Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.

26 The honored guest would take the spot to the left of the master or host. That would put his mouth right near the ear of the host. The fact that Jesus could hand the morsel to him tells us that Judas was probably in this spot or close to it. Judas is an honored disciple. He had them all fooled except Jesus. Even after Jesus told John, it does not seem anyone could believe it or suspected him. If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck and quacks like a duck may be a good way to identify ducks, but we can't say the same for Christians. We can sing the songs and memorize the Scripture and even tell others about how wonderful Jesus is, and yet be living with our own agenda. God will sort it all out in the end (Matthew 14:41).

27 Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." 28 Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. 29 Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor.

27-29 Earlier in the chapter, Satan prompted Judas, which means he dropped something into his mind. Now, that prompt being accepted, and Jesus offering a sign of favor and friendship, Judas opens himself to Satan's agenda. We either end up with the Lord having His way, or Satan having his. Even when we think we are having our own way we are just deceiving ourselves. The idea of Satan entering a person was also known to be in rabbinic literature and the Qumran scrolls. Judaism correctly believed that two impulses played upon all men, godly and demonic. They believed it was the individual's will that determined the outcome as to which would prevail. I would agree, but I would add that everyone is assisted by the grace of God to yield to God's Spirit, though many will choose to reject that grace. We should always ask ourselves who is prevailing in our life. The fact that the disciples didn't suspect Judas shows how well his religious actions had fooled them.

30 So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

30 There are numerous times in the New Testament that mention the betrayal being at night. It suggests the spiritual darkness of the deed (1 Thessalonians 5:7). Darkness versus light is a theme throughout the Gospel of John. John is emphasizing how hardhearted and evil the deed was. Judas had just received the offering of friendship, and he chose darkness instead. I believe everyone must decide between darkness and light.

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. 32 If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once.

31,32 Now! Not at the ascension some 40 days later, but right now as Jesus determined to go to the cross. He could have stopped Judas. He could have told Peter and he would have stopped Judas. He could have left and gone somewhere besides the Garden of Gethsemane. In telling Judas to do it quickly, the course was set. He was determined to carry out His Father's will. Surrender of our lives to the Father brings glory to us and to God. It is then that people see the heart of God (2 Corinthians 2:14). That is truly glorious.

Questions

The text begins by referring to what verse?

What had Jesus done to warn Judas?

Discuss the Messianic Psalm quote and application.

What is the connection with verse 19 and Isaiah?

What was the significance of giving the morsel to Judas?

How did Judas fool all the disciples?

What Isaiah passage is verse 31 referring to?