

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
MARCH 10, 2021
MATTHEW 26:20-25

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Passover marks the beginning of the end of the life of Jesus. In the next two days, Jesus will pray in Gethsemane, be betrayed, arrested, tried and convicted, and crucified.
2. The chief priests had already paid Judas to betray Jesus. (Matt. 26.14-16)
3. Jesus enjoys fellowship with His apostles, but it is overshadowed by His impending death and the betrayal that would lead to it. (Luke 22.14-16)

I. BREAKING DOWN THE TEXT

- A. There is a statement made.
 1. **MATTHEW 26.20:** *“When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve.”* Matthew earlier identifies the twelve and the apostles. (Matt. 10.1-3)
 2. **MATTHEW 26.21:** *“one of you will betray Me.”* (cf. John 6.64)
- B. There are emotions felt.
 1. The reaction of the twelve apostles.
 - a) **MATTHEW 26.22:** *“And they were exceedingly sorrowful”*
 - b) **MATTHEW 26.22:** *“Each of them began to say to Him, ‘Lord, is it I?’”*
 - c) Not with outward suspicion but inward reflection. (Mark 14.19; John 13.22-25)
 2. The reaction of Jesus. (John 13.21)
- C. There is an identity made.
 1. **MATTHEW 26.23,24:** *“He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me.”*
 2. **MATTHEW 26.25:** *“Then Judas...answered and said, ‘Is it I?’ He said to him, ‘You have said it.’”* (cf. Matt. 26.14-16; John 13.26)

II. LESSONS FROM JUDAS

- A. Sin is always a choice.
 1. Did Judas act on free will, or was his act of betrayal predetermined?
 2. It was predicted in Old Testament prophecy. (Matt. 26.21; Ps. 41.9; John 13.18; 17.12)
 - a) Prophecies can be prescriptive. (Deut. 18.18,19; Acts 3.20-23)
 - b) Prophecies can be predictive. (Isa. 53.4-6; Acts 2.22,23)
 3. **LUKE 22.3:** *“Then Satan entered Judas, named Iscariot.”* (cf. John 13.27-30)
 - a) What does it mean for Satan to enter your heart? (John 13.3; Acts 5.3,4)
 - b) Who influences your decisions? (Rom. 8.1,2,9-11; Ps. 1.1,2)
- B. A Christian can fall from grace and lose their faith.
 1. Judas was once a faithful apostle and follower of Jesus.
 - a) Judas preached and sacrificed. (Matt. 10.5-10,16-18)
 - b) Notice the description of the twelve apostles which included Judas. (John 17.6-11)
 2. Though once faithful, Judas gave into the influence of the devil. (John 17.12)
 - a) **ACTS 1.15-17:** *“who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.”*
 - b) **ACTS 1.25:** *“this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell”*
 3. Just like Judas, we can give into the influence of the devil and fall.
 - a) **2 PETER 3.17:** *“beware lest you fall from your own steadfastness...”*
 - b) **1 CORINTHIANS 10.12:** *“let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall”*