

John 13:18–30 “Jesus Identifies His Betrayer”

When we are confronted with darkness, we must stay rooted in God’s Word, walk in the light, and trust God’s plan to carry us through to victory.

Biblical/Cultural Context

In Jewish culture, sharing a meal wasn’t just about eating—it was about trust, loyalty, and fellowship. The Passover meal was meant to celebrate deliverance, yet it became a setting for betrayal. It was here where Jesus would openly reveal that one of the Twelve will betray Him. This was a shocking revelation to the disciples but to Jesus, it was the fulfillment of Scripture. A moment meant for unity becomes the moment darkness is exposed.

Passage Outline

- **I. Jesus stays rooted in the scriptures (John 13:18–20)**
- **II. He exposed the darkness (John 13:21–26)**
- **III. He submitted to God’s plan and released the darkness (John 13:27–30)**

Passage Notes

I. Jesus stays rooted in the scriptures (John 13:18–20)

 **Jesus faced betrayal with confidence and peace because His life, suffering, and mission were anchored in the unchanging truth of Scripture.** When Jesus says, “I know whom I have chosen,” He is speaking of choosing for service, not salvation, and He knowingly selected Judas so that Psalm 41:9 would be fulfilled. By telling the disciples about the betrayal before it happened, Jesus prepares them so their faith will not collapse when the darkness comes, but instead be strengthened as they remember that God’s plan was unfolding exactly as written.

-  **Stay rooted in The Scriptures.**
 - *What is it we turn to before turning to God’s word?*
 - **► Study His word, Memorize His word, and Rely on His word in times of trouble to receive the comfort and joy we desire.**

II. He exposed the darkness (John 13:21–26)

 **God’s grace, revealed through Christ, exposes the darkness of unbelief while offering mercy to the undeserving.** Though fully aware of Judas’s role, Jesus is “troubled in spirit” (*tarassō*), revealing that divine foreknowledge does not cancel real grief—Jesus feels the pain of betrayal because He genuinely loves. The disciples’ confusion (*aporeō*) shows that outward closeness, religious activity, and moral appearance are not reliable indicators of faith, since Judas looked just as “clean” as the rest until Christ revealed the truth.

-  **Preach grace-filled truth to expose darkness.**
 - *Where have we turned from grace?*
 - **► Faith in Christ is solely based on God’s grace and nothing else. Expose false teaching by using God’s grace filled truth.**

III. He submitted to God’s plan and released the darkness (John 13:27–30)

 **Jesus submitted to God’s redemptive plan, by releasing His betrayer, to accomplish victory over sin and Satan.** Jesus, fully aware of His identity, mission, and the Father’s redemptive plan, does not resist betrayal but willingly submits to it, saying, “What you do, do quickly.” By releasing Judas quietly rather than exposing him publicly, Jesus demonstrates complete sovereignty and trust in God’s plan, not fear or helplessness.

-  **Trust in Christ as the source of transformation, and walk in the light of Christ.**
 - *Where have we stalled our transformation and settled in darkness?*
 - **Because we have the light of Christ, let it shine on our darkness so we can submit to God’s plan for us, and release the sin that betrays us.**

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.’