

SERMON TEXT: John 13:21-30 (NIV)

Vs. 21 - After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, **“I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me.”**

Vs. 22 - His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant.

Vs. 23 - One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved (John), was reclining next to him.

Vs. 24 - Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, “Ask him which one he means.”

Vs. 25 - Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?”

Vs. 26 - Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon.

Vs. 27 - As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

“What you are about to do, do quickly,” Jesus told him,

Vs. 28 - but no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him.

Vs. 29 - Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the Feast, or to give something to the poor.

Vs. 30 - As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

GREETING: Jesus says: heaven & Earth will pass away, but My Words will never pass away. . (Matt. 24:35)

As we continue our journey following the Lent Series entitled *“The Hands of The Passion,”* This evening we want to look at “Hands of Betrayal”.

As soon as you hear the word – “betrayal” and Lent in the same sentence, your mind probably takes you immediately to Judas Iscariot.

Before we look at Judas, let us first give some examples concerning betrayal from other portions of Scripture.

In the book of Obadiah, the Lord through the Prophet Obadiah is addressing the people of Edom.

The Lord directs Obadiah to tell the people of Edom: **“All your allies will force you to the border; your friends will deceive and overpower you; those who eat your bread will set a trap for you, but you will not detect it.”** (Obadiah 1:7)

Because the nation of Edom (Esau’s descendants / the brother of Jacob) did not give aid to the nation of Israel when Israel was being attacked by foreign nations, but instead, Edom stood back and watched and even rejoiced (Obadiah 1:10-12) Edom would be betrayed by their allies. Betrayal.

During the life of David, he experienced betrayal.

After David killed the giant Philistine named Goliath, David entered into service under King Saul, and later was even given one of Saul’s daughters (Michal - מִיכָל - I Samuel 18:20-27) in marriage.

Yet shortly after the marriage, King Saul wanted to kill David and even threw a spear at David in an attempt to kill David. Betrayal.

After David became King of Israel, King David had a trusted commander by the name of Joab.

David trusted Joab so much, that Joab was included in David’s plan to kill Uriah the Hittite, the husband of Bathsheba.

Yet the time came that when David’s own son Adonijah lead a rebellion against his father David (I Kings 1:5ff), and Joab’s loyalty switched from David and Solomon to Adonijah. Betrayal.

Joab’s betrayal of David resulted in his death at the command of David by Benaiah. (I Kg. 2:28-35)

This evening we see Judas Iscariot who would betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver (Matt. 26:15), the price of a slave (Ex. 21:32).

Judas, who trained under Jesus and now sat at the same table where Jesus would institute the Lord’s Supper, would betray Jesus. Judas would hand Jesus over to the chief priests.

Judas was leading a double life. He was a disciple of Jesus, yet greed had taken a hold of his heart.

When Mary anointed the feet of Jesus with expensive perfume (John 12:3), to this act of love by Mary, Judas asked: “**Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor?**” (John 12:5)

Yet Judas did not say this because he cared about the poor, for Scripture tells us that Judas was a thief and used to help himself to the money bag. (John 12:6)

The greed of Judas led him to go even further, - to betray Jesus for the 30 pieces of silver.

Have you ever been betrayed by someone close to you - a friend, a neighbor, a family member a fellow church member, someone at work? How did it make you feel?

Did the betrayal sting your heart? Did it lead you to tears?

Then you know the pain that Jesus felt as Judas Iscariot betrayed Him.

Now getting even closer to home: Have you ever betrayed someone?

How did that situation work out for everyone involved?

Betrayal causes hurt feelings, anger, resentment, arguments.

As we see Jesus being betrayed by Judas, did Jesus demonstrate any resentment for Judas?

**Rather we see Jesus as He reaches out to Judas to lead him to repentance.**

As the disciples were sitting at the table, earlier in this chapter of John, Jesus said: “**He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.**” (John 13:18)

Jesus – Who is God and knows all things – knew what Judas had planned.

Judas would have heard these words, and yet these Words of Jesus did not prick his heart enough to stop what he was doing.

Then as Jesus and the disciples continued with the meal and Jesus gave Judas another opportunity to repent as Jesus says: “**I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray Me.**” (John 13:21)

And again, Jesus gave Judas an opportunity to repent as He said:

**Vs. 26 - “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon.”**

Then in the Garden of Gethsemane, after Judas kissed Jesus as the sign for the soldiers so that they would know Who to arrest, Jesus again gave Judas an opportunity to repent of his betrayal as Jesus said to him. “**Judas are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?**” (Luke 22:48)

Judas ended up hanging himself due to deep remorse. (Matt. 27:5)

Scripture tells us that it would have been better had he not been born. (Matthew 26:24; Mk. 14:21).

**Psalm 41:9** – is an O.T. prophesy of this betrayal by Judas: “**Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.**”

Even though Scripture speaks of one who would betray Jesus as part of God’s plan of Salvation for the World, did Judas need to commit suicide? NO, of course not. What would have been the solution for Judas even after he had betrayed Jesus? Repentance. “I am sorry Jesus.”

God through the Apostle Paul tells us that He will provide a way out of temptation.

**I Corinthians 10:13** – “**No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.**”

When we break God’s law, the 10 Commandments, we betray God.

We can go through our daily life looking fine on the outside, but God knows our sinfulness.

Regardless of what sin we or anyone else falls into, the SOLUTION is the same in every situation.

Look to the Cross of Christ where we see Jesus who suffered abandonment by God the Father as Jesus cried out: **“My God, My God, why have You forsaken me.”** (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34)

God the Father treated His One and Only Son Jesus – as though Jesus had committed the sin of betrayal which Judas committed.

Jesus took upon Himself, not only the betrayal committed by Judas, but also the betrayal which others committed against us, and the sin of us betraying others and God.

The Gospel teaches us that God does not betray sinners, instead God the Father turned His back on His Own Son. God the Father forsook Christ, and in Christ the World was reconciled to God. (Romans 5:10; II Cor. 5:18)

Jesus suffered hell in our place, as our substitute so we do not have to fear abandonment by God. Instead, we are now reconciled to God in Christ Jesus.

God has made peace (Rom. 5:1) with mankind in Christ Jesus our Risen and Living Savior - AMEN

**THEME: Hands of Betrayal**