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A Traitor in the Midst
John 13:18-36

INTRO: Around the table in the upper room sits thirteen men: Jesus and the apostles. Of the twelve apostles who are at this table, one is a traitor. One is a betrayer; one is controlled by Satan (Vs 2).

The traitor has put on a very convincing performance for nearly three and a half years. His ability to conceal the blackness of his heart is astounding. He is a hypocrite! He looked like a disciple, but he was a traitor. One is made to wonder, how many are seated on the pews in our churches who have never been saved!

1. VSS 18-22, THE TRAITOR ANTICIPATED

1. Vs 18, "I speak not of you all." This points back to verse 17, not all could be happy for not all were saved, not all could be in complete obedience to Christ. One of the twelve was an unbeliever; one was yet in his sin; one was not clean spiritually (vs 10).
 1. There is one who cannot do the things that come as an outgrowth of belief. Any obedience is fake.
 1. He cannot be truly blessed because he is empty inside, and he is headed to hell. No one can be truly blessed spiritually without Jesus.
 2. Judas could not from the heart call Jesus "Master and Lord" (vs 13).
 - 1- Master is a teacher+ a teacher is to be believed. Judas did not believe.
 - 2- Lord+ a Lord is to be obeyed. Judas was not able to obey. "Faith and obedience must go together. Saving, living faith leads to obedience. Judas did not have this faith" (McGee Vol 4, 454).
 2. "I know whom I have chosen."
 1. This is not election to salvation; if is election to be an apostle (6:70).
 2. Election to salvation is always ascribed to God the Father. Jesus chose the apostles.
 3. "That the scripture might be fulfilled."
 1. The scripture Jesus referred to is Psalm 41:9.
 2. Think of it! A disciple lifting up his heel against Jesus. But this disciple has never been a sheep and will never be. He is lost, lost forever. He is the dog that has returned to his vomit; he is the hog returning to the mire.

2. Vs 19, Jesus did not want His faithful eleven to be shocked when Judas betrayed Him.
 1. Jesus wants them to know that He is not a victim. What takes place is not an accident. It does not take their Master by surprise.
 2. God's eternal purpose is being fulfilled (Acts 2:23-24).
 3. They will know that He is the Sovereign of the universe.
 4. My friend, Jesus knows if you truly believe or not. He knows whether you are a believer or a traitor.
3. Vs 20, Jesus assures the faithful that when what He has told them is fulfilled (vs 18), He will still be Messiah, Lord, and Master.
 1. When Jesus is delivered to His enemies, all is not lost. It is not over for their duty as ambassadors of Christ continues.
 2. When folks receive the messengers, they receive the Lord Jesus and the Father. "Christ and his sender are one 10:30. It is impossible to accept the one and reject the other, the two are inseparable" (Hendriksen 240).
 3. Keep in mind that we are not saved by the faith of the preacher. We are saved by hearing the Word and believing the Gospel. Those who heard the traitor and truly believed are eternally secure.
 4. The message is always greater than the messenger.
4. Vs 21, Although Jesus knew that Judas would betray Him, He was troubled in spirit.
 1. It should be pointed out that the root of all sorrow and pain is sin. The sin of Judas, unbelief and thus betrayal, was painful to Jesus (Psa 55:11-14).
 2. The traitor's unbelief troubled Jesus. The words of A.W. Pink express what is taking place here very well: "Nothing wounds more deeply than ingratitude; and that one who had been a constant companion with Him for three years, should now raise his heel against Him, was a sore trial. If Judas was unmoved, the Lord was not..." (328).
 3. Do not reject the gracious Savior.
5. Vs 22, The disciples kept looking at each other. They were at a loss to know who was being talked about.
 1. John 13:21-22 were the inspiration for Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, "Last Supper."
 2. Judas looked so much like a disciple that the others did not detect his treachery.
 3. Lost friend, you may fool me and those around you, but you are not fooling God.

2. VSS 23-26, THE TRAITOR REVEALED

1. Vs 23, It is John, the writer of this wonderful Gospel, who is leaning on Jesus breast. Others wanted to sit on the right hand of Jesus in authority. Not John, in love he leaned on Jesus.
 1. Oh, to be like John+ leaning on Jesus.
 2. Oh, not to be like Judas+ a traitor.

2. Vs 24, It is not wrong to love the brethren, but there are times when we ought to go to the Master Himself, times when we need to talk to Him not another.
 3. Vs 25, John honors Peter's request. It was surely the question on all their minds except Judas'.
 1. Leaning on Jesus and looking into His eyes, John asks: "Who is it?"
 2. We need to make our calling and election sure! Are you truly saved? Trusting Christ alone!
 4. Vs 26, The Lord openly and plainly identifies the betrayer. John had whispered to Jesus. Jesus did not whisper the answer.
 1. A piece of unleavened bread was dipped into the sauce prepared for the Passover and given to Judas.
 2. It seems that Jesus keeps the door open to Judas although He knows what Judas will do.
3. VSS 27-30, THE TRAITOR DISCHARGED
1. Vs 27, Jesus asks the demon possessed Judas to leave quickly.
 1. Judas is found out and the religious leaders must act quickly.
 2. Phillips says: "The exact moment is marked when Judas crossed the final frontier from which there was no return, the moment when his doom was sealed" (257).
 3. In eternity past, God knew what Judas would do. The same thing you would do if you had not been called by the Holy Spirit.
 2. Vs 28-29, Judas had a good reputation, but he was lost. He had acted the part of a believer, but he was not. He deceived others to the end. Are you a believer or a deceiver? He as a pretender, not a believer.
 3. Vs 30, This is the beginning of the hour of the power of darkness (Lk 22:53) says Pink.
 1. It was night in the soul of Judas.
 2. Psalm 41: "His heart gathereth iniquity to itself; when he goeth abroad he telleth...."
 3. It was night: "Men love darkness...."
 4. It was night+ what a dark deed.

CONCLUSION: Do you truly love Jesus? Do you know Him as your Savior?