

Ebenezer Youth Fellowship
The Upper Room Discourse (2) – Unmasking the Betrayer
Text: John 13:18-30

1. Review

- a) Some of the most powerful teaching in Jesus' entire earthly ministry took place at the Last Supper that He spent with His disciples. John 13-16 is the most complete record of what occurred and what Jesus' parting words were in that few hours.
- b) The parting words started with the teaching and demonstration of the humility of love.

2. Jesus and Judas

- a) Despite the awfulness of Judas' sin, Jesus reached out to him with true compassion and genuine kindness. Christ showed him nothing but love, but got betrayed in return. In John 13:18-30, Jesus and Judas come head to head.
- b) The story of Judas is probably the greatest tragedy ever lived out. He is the prime example of what it means to have opportunity and then lose it - a secret unbeliever.
- c) In the last supper, Judas, the hypocrite, sat there and let Jesus wash his feet. The experience of having Jesus to wash one's feet would melt any man's heart but not Judas with his cold and hardened heart.

3. The Blessed and the Cursed

- a) The blessed ones are recorded in v.17 – the person who shows humble love.
- b) From v.18-30, the dialogue centres on Judas the betrayer.
- c) Judas' betrayal was necessary to bring about Jesus' death, which was necessary to bring about the redemption of His people. Judas meant it for evil, but God used it for good (cf. Gen 50:20).

4. God's Plan and Judas' Plot: Divine Sovereignty and Human Choice

- a) Judas' betrayal fit right into God's sovereign redemption plan (Acts 2:23; 4:28) but the fact remains the act of Judas was extremely evil.
- b) Psalm 41:9 was quoted by Jesus in v.18b. Psalm 55:12-14 and Zech 11;12-13 are prophecies of Judas' betrayal.
- c) Judas became a traitor by his own choice. Jesus had always endeavoured to lead Judas to repentance with His teachings and love.

5. Walking with Jesus but following Satan

- a) A person can be very near to Jesus and yet be lost and damned forever. He had everyone fooled except Jesus, who knew his heart. (Parable of Wheat and Tares).
- b) In unmasking Judas, Jesus affirmed His deity "I am" (v.19).
- c) Whatever happened around us, we must not forget our commission (v.20).

6. The Troubled heart and the Hardened heart; Love and Treachery

- a) Unmasking Judas' betrayal caused deep anguish in the heart of Jesus (v.21).
- b) The disciples doubted (v.22) and asked sorrowfully, is it I? (Matt 26:22,25).
- c) For about 3½ years, Jesus had been kind, gentle, and affectionate to Judas and even to this last evening before his betrayal (v.25-27).
- d) Judas spurned the love of Christ for the last time, and the door of grace was shut against him forever. It was truly "night" for him (v.30). Be sure you are not a hypocrite when the greatest spiritual privileges are tasted by you now!

Discussion Questions:

1. Why would a person want to be a secret unbeliever in Church?
2. Do you have this fear of betraying Jesus in your life one day and departing from Him? What is your response?