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"And It Was Night"

JOHN 13:21-30

Introduction

1. In the thirteenth chapter of John's gospel, there is a statement which makes us pause.

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2. It is found in *verse 21*, where John writes, "*When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit . . .*"
3. Jesus had been talking about His example in washing their feet and how if He as "*the Lord and the Teacher*" had washed their feet, they ought to wash one another's feet (*v. 14*).
4. He then said, "*a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him*" (*v. 16*), and "*If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them*" (*v. 17*).
5. It does not seem that either of these statements would cause Jesus to become troubled in spirit.
6. However, what He said next is very likely the culprit: "*I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats My bread has lifted up his heel against Me'* (John 13:18).
7. This would make sense because of what He goes on to say in *verse 21*, "*Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me.*"
8. Jesus became troubled in spirit because His thoughts turned to Judas that night in the Upper Room knowing that Judas was about to betray Him.
9. Before we look further into the troubling of Jesus' spirit, there is a question we

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must first consider.

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A. WHY DID JESUS CHOOSE JUDAS TO BE AN APOSTLE?

1. Did Jesus know the corruption lurking in Judas' heart?
 - a. Yes. Early in his gospel, John tells us that Jesus "*knew all men*" (John 2:24).
 - b. Both Matthew and Luke tell us of times when Jesus knew what those around Him were thinking (*Matthew 9:4; Luke 6:8; 9:47*).
2. Did He know the character flaws within Judas that would cause Him to do such a thing? Again, yes.
3. The night before He chose the twelve, Jesus went "*off to the mountain to pray,*" and "*spent the whole night in prayer to God*" (Luke 6:12).
4. In *John 6:70-71*, we learn that Jesus knew all along that Judas would betray Him:

"Jesus answered them, "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?" Now He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him." (John 6:70–71, NASB95)
5. As we think about the answer to our question, "Why did Jesus choose Judas to be an apostle?", think about this.
6. God sent His Son to this world in order to bring about our salvation.
7. Jesus knew that He would offer Himself as a sacrifice for our sins.
8. Everything Jesus did was in obedience to His Father's will (*John 5:30; 6:38*).
9. His choice of Judas as an apostle, knowing full well that Judas would betray Him, was a choice made in full obedience to the will of His Father.

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B. WHAT WAS IT ABOUT JUDAS' BETRAYAL THAT CAUSED JESUS TO BECOME "TROUBLED IN SPIRIT?"

1. Jesus was not someone who kept Himself detached from His emotions.
 - a. On the way to the tomb of a close friend named Lazarus, John tells us that "*Jesus wept*" (John 11:35).

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- b. On the Sunday of the week leading up to His crucifixion, as He approached the city of Jerusalem, Luke tells us that "*He saw the city and wept over it*" (*Luke 19:41*).
 - c. *Hebrews 5:7* tells us that "*in the days of His flesh [during Jesus' earthly ministry], He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death . . .*"
2. Jesus was troubled in spirit that evening for a number of possible reasons:
- a. He loved Judas to the end (*John 13:1*), but that love was not reciprocated.
 - b. In spite of all that Jesus had done for Judas, He could see the ingratitude in Judas' heart.
 - c. He knew of Judas' eternal destiny in Hell and the terrors which awaited him there.
 - d. Unlike the others in the room, Jesus could see Satan moving around Judas . . .
 - 1) having already put into Judas' heart the desire to betray Him (*John 13:2*),
 - 2) now waiting to enter Him in order to carry out the deed (*John 13:27; Luke 22:3*).

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C. IN SPITE OF WHAT JESUS KNEW CONCERNING JUDAS, HE STILL LOVED HIM TO THE END

1. He did not remove Judas from the apostolic circle.
2. He didn't tell the other disciples about Judas' evil intentions in order to have them take action against him.
3. He treated Judas with the same patience and grace as the others.
4. The offer of salvation was held out to him to the end.
5. Jesus is the same toward each of us today.
6. He still endures "*hostility by sinners against Himself*" (*Hebrews 12:3*).
7. As Peter wrote in *2 Peter 3:9*, "*The Lord is not slow about His promise, as*

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some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."

8. There will come a day when those who reject Jesus will face an eternal torment which God created for the devil and his angels (*Matthew 25:41*).
9. Until that time it is God's desire that "*all men be saved and . . . come to the knowledge of the truth*" (*1 Timothy 2:4*).

Conclusion

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1. At the end of our text, in *verse 30*, John writes, "*So after receiving the morsel he went out immediately; and it was night*" (*John 13:30*).
2. When John writes, "*and it was night,*" he means more than the fact that it was dark outside.
3. Judas had just walked away from the Light of the world.
4. The only place left for him was Satan's domain of darkness.
5. Today, whenever a person rejects God's love which He has shown to them through Jesus Christ, they step into the darkness of eternity without God.
6. There is no other option:
 - a. We either choose the true Light, who enlightens every person who comes to Him (*John 1:9*), or
 - b. We choose to ally ourselves with "*the world forces of darkness*" (*Ephesians 6:12*).
7. Tonight, will you allow God to rescue you from Satan's domain of darkness and transfer you to the kingdom of His beloved Son (*Colossians 1:13*).
8. If so, you will be making the best decision you could ever make in your life.