

Remnant Life Church  
March 31, 2021  
**Judas Was Not Alone**  
John 13:21-30

Last week we spoke of the days of Holy Week

- Palm Sunday
- Monday in the temple driving out the money changers
- Tuesday teaching on the Mt of Olives and dealing with the Pharisees
- Wednesday a day of rest for Jesus but not for Judas
- Thursday the last supper, washing the feet, prayer in the G of G
- Friday the crucifixion
- Saturday resting in the tomb
- Sunday the day of resurrection

Today however, Wednesday, is unique within the week because of its absence from the Scriptures

- Every other day contains one if not many significance events
- Was there really nothing noteworthy going on?

There is a church tradition that says this was the day when Judas met with the chief priests and agreed to betray Jesus as we read in **Luke 22:1-4**

**READ – John 13:21-30**

So, once again, we have come back to Judas

- We never speak of him except during this one week – and with good reason
- After all, he was the betrayer
  - But we still do not know why he did it
  - Was he angry that Jesus did not take the many opportunities he had to rally the people against the Romans?
  - Was he frustrated because Jesus gave so freely to everyone when he was the one in charge of the money for the disciples?
  - Or was he mistaken thinking that to bring the Romans to Jesus to arrest Him would force Jesus' hand and get the revolution under way?
- Notice that Judas is never called a betrayer of Jesus, but THE betrayer of Jesus
- That means he is singled out, solitary, alone

But now in my on-going defense of Judas we must also recognize that there were, in fact, others

What about Peter?

- Peter gives this very noble and forceful declaration that he is ready to follow Jesus wherever He must go – even to a place of death (**John 13:37**)
- But just a few hours later, and from a distance away from Jesus, he denies on three different occasions that he even knows Him

- Yet we do not consider that to be on the same level as what Judas did
- Perhaps it because Jesus, in love, forgave and reinstated Peter
- Judas never had that opportunity since he took his own life out of devastating remorse
- Peter was forgiven but that does not change what he did

What about the rest of the disciples?

- The closest followers of Jesus had just spent a full evening with their beloved Rabbi
- They enjoyed the Passover meal together
- They had their feet washed by their venerated teacher; a singular privilege and honor that they probably still did not fully comprehend
- And they had been in prayer with Him deep into the night
- But then the soldiers appeared and rather than standing with and defending their leader, they ran into the night filled with terror and cowardice

But it did not end there

- The crucifixion was a public spectacle
- No doubt the surrounding grounds of Golgotha would have been packed with people given the fame of Jesus
- Hiding among the crowd would have been an easy thing to do if they covered their heads
- Knowing that, how many disciples does the Scripture tell us were there when Jesus surrendered His life?
- One – John

Yes, they may have been watching from a great distance out of sight

- They may have even dispersed themselves among the crowd to be less conspicuous
- More than likely they were huddled in a room behind locked doors just like when Jesus appeared to them the first time

Now, before we pass judgment in righteous indignation at these actions, would you have reacted any differently? Would I?

- Can we honestly say, with absolute certainty, that the actions of Peter and the others might not have been ours as well?
- We shake our heads at the betrayal but are we sure that our actions, even today, are not similar?
- It may not be in the way that we read this time of year, but it is betrayal none-the-less

The word betray applies in definition to several meanings

- But the one that fits best with regard to Jesus is...
  - to reveal unintentionally –
  - like one *betrays* their true feelings
- The truth of Judas' heart was revealed by what he did
- The truth of the disciples' belief and lack of faith was revealed when they abandoned Jesus

What do we reveal of ourselves in our times of betrayal?

- Yes, our times of betrayal
- When the truth of our hearts and our faith is revealed
  - What was your response the last time you were faced with a very difficult task?
  - What is the condition of your heart when you gossip, tear someone down by saying unkind things, or explode in anger most often directed at another person?
  - What about the worry, fear, or dread that you cling to?
  - What about the half-truths, misdirection, or just bold-faced lies that you find so easy to tell usually accompanied by a justification

Where do those things place you tonight in your betrayal of Jesus?

- Are you weeping like Peter?
- Are you hiding like the disciples?
- Or are you moving closer to the cross like John?

We know the end of Judas' story

- He never had the chance to be forgiven
- He could never be reinstated like Peter
- Although his final act was viewed in first-century Israel as the ultimate way to atone for a wrongdoing, we still view him as the villain

Peter, the disciples, Judas all came to a crossroads of decision

- They could have chosen to go a different path, but they did not
- They all betrayed Jesus, just as we have done in our lives
- But Jesus died on the cross to forgive them and us of those sins
- He lived knowing those closest to Him would betray Him, yet He died willingly anyway

Take the time of this week to carefully examine your own life

- What ways are you betraying your relationship with God?
- What decisions need to be made differently?
- How can you be a witness to the life-changing power of the shed blood of Jesus

Blood that was shed for you and for me - betrayers