

## Living Lent | Day 37

# Betrayal

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*When Jesus had thus spoken, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was lying close to the breast of Jesus; so Simon Peter beckoned to him and said, "Tell us who it is of whom he speaks." So lying thus, close to the breast of Jesus, he said to him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give this morsel when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Then after the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the money box, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast"; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the morsel, he immediately went out; and it was night.*

*When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of man glorified, and in him God is glorified; 32 if God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once.*

**John 13:21-32 RSV**

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### Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

Have you ever been betrayed? Have you ever betrayed someone?

Webster's Dictionary gives this definition for "Betray": expose (one's country, a group, or a person) to danger by treacherously giving information to an enemy. Does Benedict Arnold leap to the forefront of your mind as you read that definition? Or a friend, spouse, relative, business partner?

Right in the middle of our annual observance of Holy Week and celebration of our risen Savior, scripture takes us back to the stinging betrayal of Judas Iscariot. Does your stomach turn like mine when you read the account of Judas bailing out on Jesus? Does the thought of Judas, or the mere mention of his name, make you

“mad as a hornet?” Would you like to give Judas a piece of your mind? How in the world could Judas turn his back on God’s Son, his friend, his beloved Lord and Teacher? All, for thirty shiny, silver coins.

As I reflected on this passage, several thoughts quickly surfaced.

First, being closely identified to Jesus is not the same as being true disciple.

Secondly, it became clear how easily, in this world of shiny objects and competing voices, I am prone to be more like Judas than a follower of our eternal, Risen Savior.

Thirdly, it deeply troubles Jesus when we bail out on Him because He knows it is to our detriment. John, chillingly wrote in this passage that Judas left Christ to betray Him, “And it was night.”

Lastly, staying faithful to Jesus is not always easy but, for all aspects of our lives, it the best commitment we can ever make and keep.

This passage ends with Jesus reminding His remaining disciples that He and God would be glorified no matter how events would unfold.

During this Holy Week, how can we glorify Christ? Perhaps, we can start by asking Him to forgive us for when we have betrayed Him and, in turn, by forgiving those who have betrayed us.

May God’s peace and glory shine on you this Holy Week.

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### ***Contributor and Contributing Body of Christ***

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