

ONE of you will Betray me!

Series: John

(Easter Season)

Title: A New Comandment

Text: John 13:18-38

Take your Bibles, please, and turn to John chapter 13. You will find notes in your ~~bulletin~~. John chapter 13. I love these last chapters of John. I don't know of anything that ^{can} ~~is~~ so thrills the heart of ^{the} believers ~~to~~ to know these precious words that our Lord gave ~~in~~ in those last moments before he went to the cross. Tremendous instructions here for his disciples in chapter 13-14-15- and 16. And then an entrance into the very presence of God. Standing on Holy ground in chapter 17, as we see Christ in his great High priestly prayer. Then the trial and the crucifixion and ~~the~~ resurrection. Man this is great stuff. This is the Word of God. This is the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

And I believe every christian should know these ~~4~~ chapters well. So that we will believe and act and think and feel just as Jesus would. And to do that we must know what he said and taught. Renew our minds daily in the Word of God and we ~~will~~ ~~be~~ transformed into the likeness of Christ in attitudes and actions, and deeds.

In John chapter 13 verse 18 we are ~~reminded~~ continuing our great discussion of the upper room. And if you will remember in the first 17 verse of chapter 13 ~~that~~ Christ has just washed the disciples feet. And in his role as serverant, Jesus demonstrated the qualities of love and humility which ought to characterize the body of Christ. That if we are really going to see God work in our midst, we need these qualities in our midst.

Now, beginning with Vs 18 we are confronted with what is very often a great problem in the body of Christ. And that is a counterfeit that is in the midst. John 13 verse 18.....(Read Vs 18-38)

Let us pray

(1) In looking at the instructions to his disciples in this chapter, the first thing that I notice is the counterfit in their midst. This great discussion of Jesus as to what it meant for one to betray him. And how Jesus was troubled in his spirit.

(1) I would like you to notice in Verses 18 to 20 the reason that is involved. There are three things here.

(1) First of all the explanation of the Scripture. According to Vs 18, Psalms 41:9 is quoted there. It is a fulfilment of prophecy. Where it says that "he who eats my bread has lifted up his heel against me."

It is interesting to know the historical background of that Psalm. It was the case of a Heth'a'thel. And how he treated David. He was a traitor to him. Even though he eat at the same table.

And so we have here in the betrayal of Judas, a real fulfilment of the Scriptures. That not only dealt with the case of David and a Heth'a'thel, but also of the future. When Judas would betray a son of David, namely Jesus Christ.

Jesus says in Vs 18 "I know the ~~ones~~^{ones} I have chosen." I don't believe this is referring to salvation. But he is referring to Apostolship. I know the ones I have chosen. Namely 12 apostles.

In chapter 6 and verse 70, Jesus said to them "Did I myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?"

He said, "I know the ones I have chosen." The ~~betrayal~~ betrayal of Jesus was no accident. Jesus knew it was coming. And it was a fulfilment of Scripture.

(2) According to Vs 19 of chapter 13, this gave great evidence of the person of Christ himself. He said in Vs 19 "I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I ammmmm(period).

I am was the name of God that God gave to Moses. Tell Phrophor that I AM sent you. When Jesus earlier remarked to them as to who he was, he said "before Abraham was, I am."

The point of this is that when you see the betrayal, you will know because I have already predicted it. That is is a fulfillment of Scripture.

And you will know that I am all that I claim to be. It will give evidence of his person.

(3) And third, I believe the Lord, here, gives encouragement to his disciples in the light of this betrayal. In Vs 20 he says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives me; and he who receive me receives Him who sent me."

I believe the point here is that these disciples were going to be sent out by Christ. And if one was going to betray him, now, what was the guarantee that they all would not betray him?

Or, because of this betrayal others would not accept their message. Saying, "Oh, right, Judas betrayed him. How do we know that you guys are not doing the same?"

Jesus makes an interesting application here. That when you are sent by Christ, whoever receives you is actually receiving the one who sent you. WHY?...Because of your worthiness?.....NO!!!...I believe the issue here is the message. The message about Christ which formulated the mission of those apostles. That you are accepting Christ. Not themmmmmmm...

And no matter what happens in the midst of the disciples, even the ~~betrayal~~ betrayal, the important thing is the message. That we are preaching Christ.

So often, I think we have an application of this. People look at Christians and say, "If that is the way Christians are, I want nothing to do with it." And they have a good criticism.

But if that has been your view. I want to warn you that you are judged on what you accept about the message of Jesus Christ. Not on the merits or the weaknesses of the Christians themselves.

Judge Christianity, not by Christians, but by Christ. And if you accept the message of Christ, that is what God wants. And even when he sent out his Apostles, he sent them out to tell the Gospel. The Gospel about Christ. They were to never preach themselves. Only Christ. And they were to know that everyone who received them was really receiving Christ.

And friends, that is every important for all of us to learn....

() Beginning at Vs 21 Jesus gives us important revelation to the disciples about ^{who} ~~that~~ is going to betray him.

(1) And the first thing that I notice in Vs 21 to 25 is the anxiety that came over this group hearing this from the lips of Jesus. The anxiety that they felt. The Bible even says that Jesus was troubled. This is an interesting section. I want to give you what I believe are four clear principles that we can learn from what happens in Judas betraying Jesus. Four clear important principles.

(1) Number one, the one who betrayed Jesus was one of the disciples. In Vs 21 Jesus said, "truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray me." And our Lord is saying that one right out of this group is going to betray me.

And I learn a principle that John mentions again in I John 2, that people who believe that Christ has not come in the flesh, who are anti-christ in spirit, are actually in the midst of the believers.

There has never been a situation throughout all church history where believers have gathered that there has not been some counterfits in the midst.

"Now, some people are counterfits simply because they are programming themselves to be Christians. They don't betray Jesus. They don't deny him. But they have based their christianity on something other than Christ. Either their church membership, or their baptism, or their good deeds or something else. And they are counterfits. They are not believers. But they are seating in the midst of believers.

However, I don't believe that is what our Lord is referring to here in John 13. I believe he is talking about people who appear to be christians, who are seating in the midst of believers. But are counterfits. And they are dedicated to the destruction of Christianity. And church history proves this fact to be so.

And I warn the believers here. That just because people set in this church. Just because they assemble together on Sunday. That is no guarantee that everyone seating here will one day be caught up to meet the Lord in the air when he comes for his church.

I hope that one one would be seating here, If Christ came right now, and we were all caught up to meet him, I hope that ~~no~~ ^{would be left} ~~one seating here~~. We would all be taken. But I am not foolish. The Bible teaches that there are counterfits. There are tares among the wheat. Some people may be seating here without assurance of where you are going to go when you die. You have no assurance that if Christ would return you would be on your way to heaven with Him. It is a very serious matter.

Any you may appear to be christian. And everybody may think you to be christian.

I rember one young lady walking down this isle reasonly accepting the Lord as her saviour. And she told me that she grow up in this church. But she didn't understand. Then one day the Lord got awhile of her life and she believed and was saved.

I don't know where you stand. But you may be seating here, raised in the church, coming from a christian home, but if you don't know Jesus, when He comes again you will be left. And when death knocks at your door, it is all over for you. There will be no second chance to receive Jesus. And he said to those disciples, "One out of you will betray me." And that is the first principle that I learn from these verses of scripture in John 13.

(2) The second principlle, I learn that our Lord was deeply affected by this. I learn that our Lord was deeply affected by this. Vs 21 says, "that he was troubled in Spirit."

There are only two other occasions in the Bible where that is used. In John chapter 11 verse 33, at the time of the resurrection of Lazarus, when all the Jews were grieving, When Mary and Martha lacked hope in his power, the Bible says that "Jesus was deeply troubled in his spirit."

In chapter 12 verse 27, Jesus said, "Now my soul has become troubled; and what shall I say." He was talking about his coming death and his hour of suffering. And he was deeply troubled. Only used these three times. The word indicates a deep distrubance within the soul. Here is the Son of God, upon saying these words, "one of you shall betray me," was deeply troubled in his own heart.

Not because he didn't know what was going to happen. But I believe as indicated in Chapter 17 when he prayed in the garden, he prayed specifically for Judas. I believe here on this occasion when he handed the sop to him, it was one last gracious invitation to Judas.

Listen, for us to conclude that Jesus didn't feel strongly about Judas is a mistake. He loved Judas. ~~Say~~ Yes, the scripture was being fulfilled. Yes, Jesus knew what was happening. It didn't take him by surprise. But he loved Judas.

I believe that Jesus is affected by every one who ignores him. By all who reject him. Jesus loves you more than you will ever understand. And there is much we can understand about his love from the Bible. We learn that He does love us. No matter what we are like or what we have done in our life. And even a Judas is the object of his love.

And I plead with you. That if you are a counterfit, you are not really sure of your relationship with Jesus, God loves you. He wants you to be sure. He wants you to come to Him.

(3) The third principle that I learn from these verses is that his disciples were confused and did not have understanding. Vs 22 says "The disciples began looking at one another, at a loss to know of which one he was speaking." And there were several things that I believe they were thinking.

(1) *guilt was there* ~~they were guilty, certainly.~~ Guilt that I might have done something. It suggests the potential and possibility in the heart of every person, to do the same thing that Judas did.

So often people say, "Well, I would never betray Jesus, like Judas." Or, "I would never deny the Lord, like Peter."

How foolish is that kind of thinking. Potential of betrayal and ~~denial~~ denial is lying within the heart of everyone of us. And if it were not for God's power and the grace of our Lord J.C., there isn't a person here that could commit the greatest sin against God. In an hour of temptation and persecution thousands of Christians compromised ~~their~~ their position because they didn't want to lose their neck with the Romans. It is easy to betray Christ. It is easy to deny him.

It necessitates the power of Christ to sustain you in that hour of trial. Each of those disciples knew in that moment that the potential of denial was in each of their hearts.

These same men a few days later, were scartted about, they had gone back fishing, concluding that there is no hope. And the Bible says that on the day of Jesus' death all the disciples forsook him and fled. It wasn't just Judas, it wasn't ~~just~~ ^{just} Peter who denied him. They all ran away. They were scared to death. And you can ~~imige~~ imagine how they felt seating around that table having dinner with Jesus and hearing him say that one of you is going to betray me. WHO IS IT? They really didn't know. They knew the potential was there in every heart.

(4) The fourth ~~thing~~ ^{principle} that I see in this particular section about the betrayal of Christ and about what christ said and the effect of it is that Christ revealed the betrayal to one that was close to him.

According to Vs 24 says that Peter gestured to him and said to him, "tell us who it is of whom He is speaking." "He, learning back thus on Jesus' breast, sid to him, Lord, who is it?"

I do not believe what Jesus said in Vs 26 was public. It was private. It is only recorded in John. John wrote the Gospel of John. He was the only one who heard it. So, I believe it was privately spoken.

And I ask myself the question. Why did Christ reveal this to only one of the 12 disciples? Why didn't he announce publically that it was Judas?

After Judas left the meeting, why didn't he say, "Men, Judas is the one." Why did he tell it to only one man?

The key is in verse 23. It was a man whom Jesus loved. And that is expressed even more beautifully in Vs 25, "He, leaning back thus on Jesus' breast." That was possible because they lied on couches to eat. He was close to Jesus. That young man was so close to Christ. He knew more about Jesus than anyone else. WHY?...WHAT WAS THE PUPOSE OF THIS?.....

I believe the answer is found in the testimony of history. That John was unigual prepared by God to be the number one eye witness. The only one out of all the disciples who did not die a marty's death.

He lived to be an old man. His life span covered the entire first century. He was the number one theology of the Church. Not Paul. Church history records that. John was around to train large numbers of disciples who became leading people in the growth of the early church. John took care of the mother of Jesus. And he learned more about Jesus than another man. John loved Jesus. He is the one who wrote: "We ought to love one another."

And I believe that God uniquely prepared this man. And gave him insights because of the relationship he had with Jesus that the other disciples did not have.

And we learn a clear principle from this. The one who is closely related to Jesus Christ, the one who is close to his heart, is the one who receives insight as to what is happening and what God's will really is...

(2) In Vs 26 notice the action of Christ. "That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him. So when He had dipped the morsel, He took and gave it to Judas."

Now, can you imagine what John must of thought?

(3) Third, notice the activity of Satan. The Bible says in Vs 27 that after he received the morsel, Satan entered into him." Now, I believe Satan was effecting him and influencing him all the way up to this point. But here is total possession. In other words, to betray Christ as he did, demanded that Satan possess him. Satan entered into him.

Why ~~after~~ the morsel? Why then? I agree with most on this subject that the reason that happened that way is because Judas refused the last opportunity Christ gave to him. That in that simple act Jesus was saying, "Judas, it is not too late. I know all about it. I know what you are going to do. And it is not too late."

And his refusal to do anything about it, opened ~~the~~ door for Satan to enter into him. It is all over now. It is fixed. He is going to betray Christ.

(4) Fourth, notice the association that the disciples made about Judas. Vs 28 to 30, They didn't understand what was going on. Only John knew.

It says, Vs 29, they thought because he had the money box, meaning that he was the treasurer of the group. By the way, that doesn't mean that all church treasurer"s are of the devil.....

I read that in one book. Listen, somebody in the church has to fhandly the money. That is why the Bible says that godly people should. Those who are felled with the Holy Spirit, and manifest wisdom.

But it is interesting. The disciples thought that Judas was going out to buy somethings that they needed for the feast.

Now, some folks at this point feel that the Bible is contridicting itself. They say, "wait a minute. They are eating the feast. So, why in the world would they think when Judas left that he was going to buy for the feast?"
ANSWE:...I believe that our Lord Jesus Christ died on Wednesday. Not on Friday. Not on Thursday. But on Wednesday. I believe that Passover was that day. And the next day was the feast of the Unleaven bread. And I believe, also, that when they went to prepare for the passover, and they went to the uppper room, that they were a part of an ancient Jewish custom, taking the passover. The night before he went to the cross, they were there and they had a supper. I believe it was a part of the total passover proceedings.

I believe that, also, about the bread and the cup. You see, the church is more Jewish than most of us understand.

But, as they were taking that dinner that evening they were ~~participating~~ Participating in the general functions of the passover. But it wasn't all over yet.

¶ You know, the lamb was to be killed between the two evenings. And in the Jewish passover you have two sater suppers. One, the night before, and one following the ~~the~~ killing of the lamb. ~~the~~

~~the~~ So, what is happening here is that they had the first sater. The first part. And they had the bread and the cup, also. Because that bread and cup were a part of the passover. Did you know that? And the third cup of the passover was called the cup of redemption.

How beautiful that Christ would take the very thing that they were experiencing as Jews and say, "This cup is the New Testament in my blood." Boy, what an application. They couldn't miss it. He is is the passover lamb. And they to find that the very next day, which was not on their minds, they didn't think this was going to happen, but the very next day, between the two sater's. They thought they would go out and kill the lamb and bring it back and then fix it. But, ~~imagine~~ imagine what happened^{ed} between the two ~~sater's~~ evenings? The trail, the arrest of Christ, the betrayal. And then to put him on the cross to be killed on the very day that they would have killed that lamb.

It is no wonder that Jesus said on that daight just before he went to the cross that I am not going to eat this anymore until it be fulfilled in the Kingdom of God. And that was true. Because he never ate the passover lamb. But, rather, he became the passover lamb. He died for the sins of the whole world.

What a fantastic situation we have here. Right in the midst of this we have Vs 31. His instructions about the new commandment. The new commandment. Some call it the 11th commandment. Some say it is a summary of all the commandments.

(1) I would like you to notice, first of all in Vs 31 and 32 the necessity of God being glorified.

What is the Bible talking about, here, when ~~the Bible~~ Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified with Him."

I believe the issue here is that the glory involved is the cross of Christ. The fact that Jesus is going to die. Now, is the son of man gorf glorified. He is going to die on the cross.

In Galations 6:14 Paul wrote, "God forbid that I should glory, ^{except} ~~save~~ in the coross of our Lord Jesus Christ."

And then God would glorify him by raising him from the dead. You ask: "How did God get glory through the death of Christ?"

Because the Bible says he would receive glory when a seed would come from him who was bursed. ..Isa. 53.

It pleased the Lord to bruse him. Because God would see a seed which would come forth from that death. When the seed of the corn goes into the ground it dies. It has to die in order to bring forth fruit. God saw the death of Jesus. And it pleased him. It brought glory to him...WHY?..Because of the seed that would come from his death. As multitudes, even today, believe in Jesus Christ and the sufficiency of his death. God is being glorified ~~continue~~ continually, through the act of the cross and its effect in history.

This I believe becomes the foundation of the new commandment. The cross of Christ. We love him because he first loved us.

(2) Let's look secondly, Vs 33 at the need for this commandment. I believe the need is clear from Vs 33 when he says, "Little Children, I am with you a little while longer."

I am going away. His soon departure. What are you going to do now that I am gone? I have loved you. What are you going to do now without my love?
ANSWER: A new commandment. I give to you that you love one another.

(3) Let's look at the nature of this commandment. Three things... Vs 34-35

Before, I give you these three principles, let me share with you what really blessed me in my study of these verses.

The thing that blessed me is that God wants you and me who are believers to have the same relationship one with another that Jesus had with those disciples.....Think about that for a moment.....As close as Jesus was for three years with those men. All they went through. All he taught them. How much he loved them. And he is saying here that I want you to love one another, just like I have loved you all these years. WHAT A PRINCIPLE...

Many of us are ^{NOT} enjoying that. We are not experiencing that love. So, let's look at the nature of this commandment in three ways.

(1) First, it always requires an object. You just don't love in the air. It says "love one another." Love one another. It is a receptacle love. Whenever you give love you receive it. Love..one..another...It requires an object....

(2) Secondly, it requires a standard, or else we will be loving in the wrong way.

Jesus says, "Love as I have loved you." That is the standard.

And in the Greek text it refers to a point in time. I loved you when? At the cross of christ. That mean that I must love my brother and my sister by realizing that my whole life is to be sacrificed in his or her behalf. If it means death, it means death. I lay down my life for my brother as it says in I John 3:16. That is love.

(3) Third, it results in identification of his disciples. The result of love will identify the true disciples of Jesus. He says in Vs 35, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

You know, I have always applied this to the non-believer. The non-believer would know that we are christians by our love. But there is another truth here, also. That those in our midst also know. In other words, God brings assurance to all of us that we belong to him when we are loving one another.....Tremendous...

We know then, all, meaning all the believers know, that you are my disciples if you have love one to another....

() Then, this final statement about commitment in Vs 36 to 38. It is interesting that Peter said what he said in light of what has been said about the betrayal of Judas. (Read Vs 36-37a)

Don't you just like Peter's neve? I like Peter's neave.....Really, you feel like putting some tape on his mouth and saying, "Peter, would you be quiet. This is the Lord. Just do what he says."

But, you know we need somebody like Peter. Somebody to open his mouth and find out what is going on. Peter said, "Listen, I can't stand this. I want to know where you are going.."

And then to reassure the Lord. Don't you like that? Have you ever don't that? You reassure the Lord...He reassured the Lord by saying, "I will lay down my life for you."

Listen, there isn't anything that I will not do for you. I will even die for you. So, why can't I go with you."

Let' me give you three things here.

(1) One, we need a dependence upon the Lord's direction. God had given his direction. That wasn't enough for Peter. It isn't enough. I know I just received a new commandment. But that isn't enough. Where are you going. What do you mean you are leaving and all we have left is loving one another. I want to know where you are going?

Listen, the Lord was simply saying, "Trust me"....I know what I am doing."....In the next chapter Jesus goes on to say that he is not going to leave them like little orphans. He is going to send them ~~the~~ another comfortor just like himself.

But the application is that we need to depend upon what the Lord says. To believe the Word.

(2) And secondly, the danger of mere words. Vs 37, "I will lay down my life for you." And as you know, later that night Peter denied him. Mere words. Just saying words. Yes, I will become a Christian. Yes, I love Jesus. Yes, I confess my sins. All kinds of things we say. Mere words... And it is very dangerous.

(3) And third, a denial resulted, that proves to all of us that commitment is deeper than simply saying words. The denial that resulted proves to all of us that commitment is far deeper than merely saying it.

I don't have time to go into it. But let me give you two passages. You write these down and study them later....Mark 14 and Matthew 26...Mark 14 ...Matthew 26and Luke 22.

And I want you to read the full story of what happened at the denial of Peter. It is not all here in John. But the other Gospels will tell you the full story. How, Peter made a lot of statements. That he was more faithful to Jesus than all the other disciples.. That even though all others betray you, I will never do that.

Yet, he did....Commitment friends, ~~whether~~ whether you have come to receive Jesus as Saviour, or whether you are a believer looking at what God wants to do in your life, is far deeper than merely says some words...

Let's close in prayer