

Day 2

Jesus Loves the Betrayer & Denier

Today's Focus: Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. John 13:1

Reflections from a Former Fear Monger [part 2]
a year before the plane crash

I could be sitting among the beauty of nature with sun shining, green surrounding me, the smell of fresh flowers permeating as if it were my perfume, and yet feel so dead inside. Any part of me that was once carefree was now gone and all that was left was a deep sadness, shame, and guilt which was suffocating me, taking the air right out from my lungs.

*I remember one day in particular. I was sitting on my parent's back porch, in one of my mom's nicely cushioned patio chairs. As I was looking out over the golf course, I began to think about how good my life was and how I should be enjoying life but I wasn't because of this shame that stuck to me like a leech. The thought I had next will be one that is forever remembered in my mind because it became the day I realized the reality of how far from God I had traveled, "I'm going to die here as a slave to my bondage." Have you heard of the television show called, *The Walking Dead*? Well, that would be a perfect description of what it was like to be me or be around me — I was the walking dead. All joking aside, my soul was dying and there was nothing funny about that to me.*

I had become a person I never knew could exist inside of me. I was twenty-four and publicly wearing the shame and guilt of being a young, Christian divorcee. I then spent months post-divorce to really solidify my shame through tragic choices I made. I had the logic of an idiot at the time; my thinking went something like this, "well, I already blew it so I might as well run myself off a cliff and really blow it."

I became that woman I once judged and I was so ashamed. At one time I would have the arrogance and guts about me to think I was "better than"

because I would never be like “those” women. Yet, here I was, sitting in the filth of doing the very things I said I would never do. I thought my life was over. Judgement sounds from the Enemy rang loud and I began to believe I was worthless, unforgiven, and all out of do-overs. Little did I know I was about to come face-to-face with my Savior and I would never be the same again.

There was one glaring difference between me and Judas and it is one that makes all the difference as far as salvation is concerned: Judas may have felt guilt over his sin but it was never met with repentance. My life was changed and marked by meeting Jesus in my guilt and shame and running toward repentance.

Let's begin by refreshing our memory. **Please revisit John 13:1-17.**

Verse one causes me to stop and ponder about what Jesus must have been thinking and feeling. I don't know about you but it's difficult for me to peel back my layer of skepticism of Jesus' love toward Judas here. My mind can't comprehend knowing a friend will betray me and still washing his feet, treating him the same as the others even though he wasn't the same; he was the betrayer! What we do know, regardless of how Jesus felt, [the Savior of the World washed his betrayer's feet among men whose hearts were loyal.](#)

Yesterday you recorded verse two. **Today, I'd like you to write verse one below.** You are witnessing how Jesus loved his betrayer.

Let's take this scripture off the page here by sharing what impacts you about this scene in John 13:1-2 between Judas and Jesus.

Let's pick up our luggage and journey over to John 13:18-30. **After you've read this passage, write verse 27.**

Earlier, I shared a little of my past history with Jesus with you. I'd like to take some time and elaborate. It was during that dark season of life I knew I was not emotionally, physically, or spiritually healthy. I was dying inside and the glaring giveaway was I stopped experiencing conviction over my sin. In fact, I stopped feeling altogether. Don't get me wrong, feelings don't dictate conviction but conviction sure does evoke feelings. **When I am convicted, I feel something about it and I make a choice: to continue in the "it" or repent from the "it."** At that time, all of these feelings had ceased. And, they had been long gone for a while. I had been indulging in sin for so long that I just didn't care anymore. It was in this place that I thought I was fooling everyone and getting away with my sin. The reality was I was the one being fooled.

I tell you this because I can't help but wonder if this is where Judas' heart was, like mine, long gone before the night of his betrayal. Perhaps he too thought he was getting away with sin. Think about it, Jesus said in front of Judas, "one of you will betray me." Doesn't it strike you that Judas didn't feel like he was just caught red handed? How was he not sweating with such nervousness that he blurted out, "ok, Lord, you caught me! It's me!" Surely Judas wasn't ignorant to Jesus' authority by this point! Unless he was already so deep in his sin that he thought he was fooling everyone — including Jesus. Had Judas stopped feeling conviction over sin, making it impossible for him to understand what Jesus was making so perfectly clear?

This truth can't just sit dead on the page of Scripture. These words have to pierce our heart, so let's enter this scene by recording a time you stopped experiencing conviction below. **Below the definition of conviction, share your experience.**

Conviction: *to expose, convict, reprove.* (Webster Dictionary).

Our stories are so interwoven with those in Scripture. **Please summarize John 13: 26-30 in your own words below.**

Have you ever had sin exposed and chose not to repent? Here we see Judas has been exposed by Jesus, giving him an opportunity to repent but he does not. It is out of great love for us that He leads us to repentance.

Truth for Your Soul: *Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?* (Romans 2: 4 NIV)

Read John 13: 27, 30 and record Judas' response to his sin being exposed below.

Judas left Jesus **that very night**. It doesn't seem that Judas had much hesitation about the betrayal of his friend because, once given permission to "go"- through Jesus' complete authority- he went.

From John 13, write down everything about Jesus' response or treatment of Judas that leaves an impact on you.

**As help, think back to a time when you felt betrayed by a friend and think about your response to feeling betrayed. Then go back and reread Jesus' interaction and response to Judas. I'll share some responses that left an impact on me to help get you started (see below for my examples):*

My Impact:

- ◆ Jesus didn't humiliate Judas in front of his friends
- ◆ Jesus gave Judas permission to go betray him

I really have enjoyed getting to know Jesus from this angle because it is so unlike how culture behaves. We can miss so much if we read John 13 without utilizing how we are created by our Creator: to feel, express, engage, and interact with this grand narrative.

Let's set up our tents here for the night and end today by revisiting 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7 and record below how Jesus showed love for Judas (as seen in John 13). Keep that spark of creativity lit until our next lesson because tomorrow's journey takes endurance!