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BIBLE STUDY

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**“JESUS’ TROUBLED SPIRIT”**

**John 13:21-38**

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***John 13:21, "When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me."***

***John 13:22, "Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake."***

This had to come as quite a shock to Jesus' disciples. They knew that Jesus was the one true God in the flesh. However, His divinity did not negate His humanity. Jesus was not troubled for Himself, but for Judas Iscariot. Jesus became troubled in His humanity, knowing what was about to occur. When we are disobedient to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Jesus is troubled.

***John 11:33 “When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled.”***

***John 12:27 “Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.”***

***Hebrews 4:15 “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”***

***Ephesians 4:30 “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”***

Then he prophesied: Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me. Thus, something that the readers of John’s Gospel have been told for some time was finally revealed to the disciples. And they were in shock, looking at one another in bewilderment. These disciples all knew each other well. They had worked with Jesus together for over three years. Each was questioning within himself which one it might be. Each was all hoping it was not him.

***John 6:66-71***

***66From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.***

***67Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?***

***68Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.***

***69And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.***

***70Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?***

***71He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.***

***Matthew 26:22-23***

***22And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?***

***23And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me.***

***John 13:23, "Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved."***

***John 13:24, "Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake."***

***John 13:25, "He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it?"***

This is John speaking of himself. John loved Jesus so very much that he wanted to be as near to Jesus as he could. Peter leans over to the disciple next to Jesus and asks him who it is that Jesus is talking about. Peter told John, the author of this Gospel and the one Jesus loved to ask Jesus who this betrayer was.

***John 13:26, "Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon."***

***John 13:27, "And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly."***

Jesus handed the sop to Judas. He said by handing him the sop that it was Judas who would betray Him. Some people look at this and think that Judas had no choice, but that is not so. Judas was a thief, and earlier Jesus said Judas was a devil. Judas did not have to allow Satan to enter him. He had a free will that he could have activated. Jesus told John that it was the disciple to whom he would give a piece of bread. Then he handed bread to Judas. To offer food was a sign of friendship; therefore, Jesus was extending a final offer of grace and mercy to the one who was about to betray him. Judas took the bread, but he rejected the offer of friendship: Satan entered him. Yet Satan only entered him because Judas had invited him by rejecting Jesus and intending to betray him. Essentially, Jesus told Judas, “What you’re planning to do, get it over with.”

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***John 13:28, "Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him."***

***John 13:29, "For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor."***

***John 13:30, "He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night."***

The other disciples were confused by the exchange, thinking that Jesus was telling Judas to make preparations for the Passover feast. They didn’t realize that Judas would not only betray their Master but would do so that very night. Judas left to carry out his evil deed. The disciples were probably very noisy around the table talking to each other. There were thirteen people at the table. Those around the table did not hear just exactly what Jesus said, they just knew that He said something to Judas. Remember this whole betrayal, trial, and scourging took place in the middle of the night.

***John 13:31, "Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him."***

***John 13:32, "If God be glorified in him, God shall also glorify him in himself, and shall straightway glorify him."***

Jesus is speaking prophetically, here, that He will be glorified when Judas betrays Him, and the Father will be glorified, as well. The Father and the Son are glorified together. We would not see the glory of the cross, but had there been no cross, we would not be saved. Jesus lived in glorification in heaven, He left His home in glory, He won the victory on the cross, and returned to glory. In so doing, He made a way for us to be with Him in His glory. You see, not only will He be God the Word which is glory enough, but He will be King of kings and Lord of lords. To be glorified is to be elevated to the highest. Not only is this glory for Jesus, but for the Father, as well. Their plan for the people of the world has been completed.

***1 Corinthians 10:31 “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”***

***John 13:33, "Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you."***

These little children, here, are Jesus' followers. He reminds His followers that He is soon to depart this earth and go back to heaven where He came from. Jesus has such great love for His followers and His heart is heavy, because He knows they cannot immediately follow Him to heaven. He, also, knows the terrible loss they will feel when He is no longer with them.

***John 13:34, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."***

In a little while, Jesus would be gone and ascend to God the Father. In light of this impending departure, he gave them a new command: Love one another. This is spoken to Jesus' eleven. He knew that some of them had been a little jealous of each other, and that they were not all from similar backgrounds, so they might have problems working together. To stop all of this Jesus says, I give you a new commandment. This is not a suggestion. It is a commandment. He did not stop with just "love one another", either. He added, "as I have loved you". This means to have unselfish love. Jesus' love for us was not because of something we did, but in spite of what we did. He is really saying love them even when they are unlovely. This is speaking of the agape love. It was new because it related to what was about to happen within the family of God. Biblical love is the decision to compassionately, responsibly, and righteously pursue the well-being of another person. It’s not the same as liking someone. To like someone or something is to express a feeling. By contrast, loving someone may or may not have feelings connected to it. Love is a decision to seek another’s best, regardless of your feelings.

***John 13:35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."***

Jesus is saying here that this great unselfish love for each other would set them aside from the rest of the world, because the people who are worldly do not know how to love like this. Jesus (their leader) loved like this and left a pattern of this kind of love for them (and us) to follow. The greatest love anyone could have would be to give his life for his fellowman, and that is just what Jesus did. Through loving one another, Jesus told them, everyone will know that you are my disciples. Notice that he didn’t say everyone would recognize his disciples by how much of the Bible they knew. Knowing the Bible is essential, but knowledge means nothing without love. A loveless Christian actually undermines the gospel. Why? Because, as John says elsewhere, “God is love.”

***1 Corinthians 13:1-3***

***1Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.***

***2And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.***

***3And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.***

***John 13:36, "Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards."***

Peter does not understand what Jesus is saying here. He wants to have the security of the Lord Jesus with him, even if he must go to the death with Him. Peter is ready to fight for the Lord. He carries a sword, you remember, with which he cuts off the ear of the soldier. I think Peter's problem came when Jesus didn't fight back, but submitted willingly to the death on the cross. I believe Peter would have fought unto the death for Jesus had that been what Jesus wanted. Peter just did not understand why Jesus wouldn't fight back.

***John 13:37, "Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake."***

You see by this, Peter's willingness to fight. My view of Peter is of a very strong man physically. He was a fisherman.

***John 13:38, "Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou has denied me thrice."***

Peter was possibly one of the strongest apostles. He had said earlier that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus told him flesh and blood had not revealed that to him, but God. Spiritually and physically, Peter was one of the strongest. This prediction Jesus made about Peter would haunt him. It would leave an indelible print in Peter's heart. The others will be strengthened in their faith, as well, because Jesus told Peter this before it happened.

**QUESTIONS**

1. In verse 21, what terrible news did Jesus have for the disciples?
2. How was Jesus' Spirit described as He had to bring this news?
3. What effect did this news have on the disciples?
4. In verse 23, who was leaning on Jesus' bosom?
5. Who leaned over on Jesus breast and asked who it was that would betray Him?
6. In verse 26, what sign would Jesus give to show who the traitor was?
7. When did Satan enter him?
8. What did Jesus tell Judas to do?
9. Why, probably, did the other disciples at the table not know what Jesus said to Judas?
10. Why did some of them think that Jesus had sent Judas to buy provisions?
11. What time of day did all this happen?
12. Who is glorified in all of this?
13. What endearing name did Jesus call His followers?
14. What message did Jesus bring when He called them by this endearing name?
15. What was the new commandment Jesus gave them?
16. What kind of love is Jesus speaking of?
17. How will all men know that they are Jesus' disciples?
18. Who said, Lord, whither goest thou?
19. In verse 38, what question did Jesus ask Peter?
20. How many times would Peter deny Jesus?