Lesson 39 – John 13:21-38 Jesus Troubled Over Dinner
English Standard Version (ESV) Bethel Bible Resources

(21) After saying these things, Jesus 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 reclining at table at Jesus' side, so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom He was speaking.

(25) So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to Him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when He had dipped the morsel, He gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly."

(28) Now no one at the table knew why He said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, 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 of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

(31) When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him. If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek Me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

(36) Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you will follow afterward." Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for you." Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied Me three times."

Think on these things:

1) What does Jesus share is troubling Him in spirit (v.21)?

Jesus knew He was going to be betrayed (by one of His disciples).

2) Who is the disciple "whom Jesus loved," who was leaning upon Jesus' chest during the meal? How did Jesus reveal to him who the betrayer was (v.26)? Who was the betrayer?

Which disciple? **Most commentators say the 'disciple whom Jesus loved' is John, the brother of James, author of St. John, 1,2 & 3 John, and Revelation.**

How, and who was it? **Jesus said He would dip the bread morsel in the broth and give it to the betraying disciple. He then dipped the bread and gave it to Judas.**

3) When did the betrayer become "demon (Satanic)-possessed?" (v.27). Do you think Jesus was surprised by this? Review John 13:10-11.

When possessed? **V.26 says that after Judas had taken the bread from Jesus' hand, Satan entered into him. It is unclear from this verse if he actually ate the bread at that moment (but he likely did).**

Surprising to Jesus? **Jesus was not surprised. He had even told the disciples earlier, after washing their feet, that one of them was unclean --- because He knew who would betray Him.**

4) We know that Peter and John now understood what was going on with Judas. However, what did the other disciples think was going on (v.29)?

They interpreted Jesus' words to Judas as either: 1) go buy the food supplies we need for tonight's feast; and 2) go give away some money (or stuff) to the poor.

5) We read that Jesus was troubled in spirit as the meal began (v.21). Now in v.31 Jesus says that "The Son of Man" is glorified. From v.32, who will glorify Jesus, and who will Jesus glorify?

Jesus would be glorified, and God the Father along with Him. The Father would then also glorify Jesus, and it would happen "at once."

6) Where do you think Jesus was going that His disciples, like the Jews in general, would not be able to go now? Skip ahead and skim John 14:1-3.

Our next chapter indicates that Jesus was going to His Father's house (mansion) to prepare rooms for all His followers. He would then come back (again) to receive them to Himself.

7) What is Jesus' new commandment for the disciples (vs. 34-35)? This new commandment is reinforced by these passages: Matthew 22:34-40; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a; 1 John 3:9-10; 4:19-21. For introspection, how well does your love for other believers reflect well or poorly on Jesus?

All of Jesus' followers/disciples are to 'love one another.' This is how other people will know we belong to Jesus.

8) Despite a right heart (at this moment), Jesus clarified that Peter would utterly fail in his boast to protect Him (v.38). Has this ever happened to you (i.e., failing God)? Care to share? How do/did you make things right again between you and the Lord (see 1 John 1:9)?

Personal question (and confession). To make things right, fallen believers must confess and repent of their sins.

People and situations I want to pray for this week: