

## Lesson 96 – EXPOSING THE BETRAYER

## Matthew 26:17-25

In the last lesson we saw that the focal point of the whole Bible is glorious Person and finished work of Jesus Christ to secure the complete salvation of all whom the Father chose and gave to Him before the foundation of the world (John 6:37-45). The Lord God sovereignly designed all the events of providence to bring about this great transaction. The way that He would be brought to this point was by being betrayed by Judas Iscariot who, though he claimed to be a disciple of Christ, was the betrayer of Jesus from the beginning (John 6:64,70). In Matthew 26:14-16, we saw Judas Iscariot bargaining with the chief priests for thirty pieces of silver to betray Jesus and deliver Him to these enemies.

**(Matt. 26:17-19)** – We know the significance of the *“FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD”* and the *“PASSOVER,”* which commemorated the last days of the Hebrews in Egypt before God brought them out to freedom by Moses (Exod. 12). This is where the Lord told them, *“When I see the blood,”* the blood of the spotless lamb, *“I will Passover you”* (Exod. 12:13). For us today, we can look back upon these as types of both the sinless purity and substitutionary death of Christ to satisfy God’s law and justice as the Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer of His chosen people, Jew and Gentile. Christ was now on His way to the cross. He was (and is) the spotless Lamb of God (1 Pet. 1:18-20). He went under the wrath of God for the sins of His people imputed to Him. His blood (His propitiation, satisfaction of law and justice, His righteousness imputed to His people) is the sole ground upon which God justly passes over His chosen people and does not condemn them for their sins. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses them all from all sin (1 John 1:7).

His disciples asked, *“WHERE WILT THOU THAT WE PREPARE FOR THEE TO EAT THE PASSOVER?”* He told them *“GO INTO THE CITY TO SUCH A MAN, AND SAY UNTO HIM, THE MASTER SAITH, MY TIME IS AT HAND; I WILL KEEP THE PASSOVER AT THY HOUSE WITH MY DISCIPLES.”* Notice He said that His time, the time of His death for the sins of His sheep was at hand. The disciples did as He commanded them and prepared the Passover feast.

**(Matt. 26:20-23)** – The Lord tells them once again that one of them would betray Him. This caused them great sorrow because they had no idea at this point who this betrayer was. They *“BEGAN EVERY ONE OF THEM TO SAY UNTO HIM, LORD, IS IT I?”* This is proof positive that a person, such as Judas, can fool many people into believing they are saved when they are not. Once God truly saves a sinner, that sinner is saved eternally and fully unto glory. This is because all of salvation, from election to redemption to the new birth, and to preservation unto glory is ALL OF GOD’S GRACE BASED ON THE BLOOD (RIGHTEOUSNESS IMPUTED) OF THE LORD JESUS

CHRIST. None of it is conditioned in any way at any stage nor to any degree upon the sinner who is saved. Those who, like Judas, appear to us to be saved but who fall away from the faith were never truly saved at all (1 John 2:18—3:10). The Lord identified Judas as the betrayer as *“HE THAT DIPPETH HIS HAND WITH ME IN THE DISH, THE SAME SHALL BETRAY ME.”*

**(Matt. 26:24-25)** – *“THE SON OF MAN GOETH AS IT IS WRITTEN OF HIM.”* – The Lord assured His disciples that He was going to suffer unto death by the sovereign purpose and decree of God as was written in the Word of God. This was no accident, and it certainly did not take God by surprise. Peter preached this at Pentecost – Christ, *“being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God,”* (Acts 2:23a). But this did not excuse Judas from the wickedness of His unbelief and betrayal – *“BUT WOE UNTO THAT MAN BY WHOM THE SON OF MAN IS BETRAYED! IT HAD BEEN GOOD FOR THAT MAN IF HE HAD NOT BEEN BORN.”* Peter preached this too in his message at Pentecost – *“ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:”* (Acts 2:23b). All of this was God’s purpose from the beginning, but this in no way excuses Judas or any other unbeliever. God’s Word tells us, *“The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law”* (Deut. 29:29). It goes on to say, *“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil* (Eccl. 12:13-14).

As we read and consider the awful state of Judas Iscariot, let us be reminded that the only reason we do not perish in our sins along with Judas is the free, sovereign, and powerful grace of God in and by the Lord Jesus Christ. By nature, as we are naturally born into this world, fallen in Adam, spiritually dead and depraved, we are no different than Judas (Matt. 15:19; Eph. 2:1-3). Consider *Ephesians 2 – (4) “But God, Who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, (5) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) (6) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: (7) That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast.”*