

Satan Enters Into Judas, the Betrayer

John 13:20-29

John 13:20-30 ²⁰ "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me." ²¹ When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me." ²² The disciples *began* looking at one another, at a loss *to know* of which one He was speaking. ²³ There was reclining on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. ²⁴ So Simon Peter gestured to him, and said to him, "Tell *us* who it is of whom He is speaking." ²⁵ He, leaning back thus on Jesus' bosom, said to Him, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶ Jesus then answered, "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, *the son* of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷ After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." ²⁸ Now no one of those reclining *at the table* knew for what purpose He had said this to him. ²⁹ For some were supposing, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus was saying to him, "Buy the things we have need of for the feast"; or else, that he should give something to the poor.

Jesus and his disciples are still together in the context of the last supper during Passover week. They are gathered around the table after the supper as Jesus has washed all of their feet, including Judas who is about to leave the supper to fulfill what he put in motion a couple of days before as he went to the religious leaders in Jerusalem to make plans to betray the Lord, the very thing Jesus announces to the disciples.

John 13:18-19 ¹⁸ "I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but *it is* that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'HE WHO EATS MY BREAD HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.' ¹⁹ "From now on I am telling you before *it* comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am *He*.

So, we pick up in verse 20 of our text today.

John 13:20 ²⁰ "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."

Somewhere during the middle of Jesus' ministry, he appointed seventy disciples, sending them out in pairs to declare the Kingdom of God. In sending them out he makes a similar, but negative statement, to the one we see in our text.

Luke 10:16 ¹⁶ "The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me."

This negative statement found in Luke 10:16 tells us that to reject those who declare the Savior and his gospel, are not ultimately rejecting the messengers of the Savior, but are rejecting the Savior himself. And in rejecting the Savior, they reject the one who sent the Savior, that is, the Father.

All this to say, to reject Jesus Christ by faith alone for salvation from sin, one has no part with God the Father, no matter how much they protest that they are a child of God.

John puts all of this into a positive statement by saying that the person who receives the one sent by the Shepherd, who is gathering his sheep from every corner of the earth, receives the Son of God, who in turn receives the one who sent the Son, that is, the Father.

In other words, one must embrace the God-head as he has revealed himself in the Scriptures as God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, which brings me back to the beginning of John 13:20, "he who receives whomever I send receives me."

The context is addressing believers who are sent by the Son, along with their message of hope found in the gospel. But it would not exclude someone else whom the Son has sent in the name of the Father.

John 15:26-27 ²⁶ "*When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth* who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, ²⁷ and you *will* testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

And so, we need to acknowledge that the Spirit of God is also sent by the Son to testify of the Son. It is the Spirit of God who regenerates Christ's sheep as they in turn are sent out into the world to be lights to the world of the saving grace that the Father has blessed them with in the Son. Salvation is trinitarian in nature as the three persons of the God-head all play a vital role, not only in our salvation, but also in the distribution of that message of hope to the world.

So, for example, to say that I believe in the Father, but I don't believe in the Son, is to say you don't believe in the one true God. In fact, this was precisely the point Jesus was making to the Jews of his day.

John 8:41-42 ⁴¹ "You are doing the deeds of your father." They said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God." ⁴² Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.

In essence Jesus was saying that despite their insistence that they belonged to God the Father, primarily because of their Jewish heritage and the law that accompanied the nation of Israel to which they belonged, they could not claim

the Father as their God because they rejected the One the Father sent, who came through the nation of Israel.

Instead, Jesus makes it clear that if you reject the Son, you necessarily reject the Father, which leads to only one conclusion as it pertains to what father these particular Jews belonged to, as Jesus goes on to make clear.

John 8:43-45 ⁴³ "Why do you not understand what I am saying? *It is* because you cannot hear My word. ⁴⁴ "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ "But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.

So, as we come back to our text, we need to keep in mind the context in which Jesus identifies himself as being sent from the Father. Remember, not to accept the Son, is not to accept the Father who sent him. If we back up two verses, we can see what Jesus had in mind when he made this statement.

John 13:18 ¹⁸ "I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but *it is* that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'HE WHO EATS MY BREAD HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.'

Judas, in betraying Jesus, has essentially betrayed the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Judas has rejected the Father by rejecting the Son through his act of disloyalty. And so, in making this statement, Jesus is identifying the ultimate rejection by one particular human being, Judas, who has spent some three plus years at the feet of the One who created him.

Remember what the apostle John records for us about this Savior, sent from the Father, at the beginning of this gospel.

John 1:1-3 ^{NAU} In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

All things have come into being through Him, that is the Word, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. The writer of Hebrews would concur.

Hebrews 1:2 ² in these last days [God] has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

When the apostle Paul addressed the church in Colossae regarding the Savior, Jesus Christ, he made this remarkable statement.

Colossians 1:15-17 ¹⁵ He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on

earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

This is the one Judas betrayed and rejected in favor of 30 pieces of silver.

Matthew 26:14-15 ¹⁴ Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and said, "What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?" And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him.

Knowing what Judas has done we are then told of what was going on in the heart of Jesus.

John 13:21 ²¹ When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me."

Again, this is in the context of Jesus making the statement regarding the one who rejects the Son, who in turn necessarily rejects the Father who sent the Son. Jesus becomes troubled in spirit. Who wouldn't become troubled? Our Lord has invested his time and love into these 12 men and now one of them will hand him over to be crucified the next morning.

But something else is interesting in this one phrase, "he became troubled in spirit."

Aside from the fact that any human being would become troubled under such circumstances, this highlights the fact that the humanity of Jesus is just as real as his deity. Jesus is fully God and fully man. He was miraculously conceived in the womb of Mary by the Holy Spirit and born into this world like any other human being.

To be troubled in spirit was to be troubled in the inner man that is spirit. Man is composed of two essential elements; flesh and spirit. This is what we see clearly in the beginning of Genesis.

Genesis 2:7 ⁷ Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

The flesh part of man was created by God from the dust of the ground. But it wasn't until God breathed into this lifeless flesh the breath of life that man then became a living being. This breath is associated with the spirit of man, of which Jesus possessed, like any other human being, thus was able to become troubled in "spirit."

The man Christ Jesus, is the Son of God incarnate sent from the Father. And in only hours he will lay down his life for his sheep.

But when Jesus makes the statement in **John 13:21** "Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me," It finally hits home to these disciples that

something ominous is about to happen and they don't want to be accused of participating in such a thing. Notice the response.

John 13:22 ²² The disciples *began* looking at one another, at a loss *to know* of which one He was speaking.

Jesus drops this bomb on them and they don't know what to make of it.

John 13:23-26 ²³ There was reclining on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. ²⁴ So Simon Peter gestured to him, and said to him, "Tell *us* who it is of whom He is speaking." ²⁵ He, leaning back thus on Jesus' bosom, said to Him, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶ Jesus then answered, "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, *the son* of Simon Iscariot.

Verse 23 would suggest that it is John who is identified as the one whom Jesus loved, who was the closest to Jesus at this point in the supper. Later in this gospel John himself will reveal that it is he who is identified as the one whom Jesus loved.

^{NAU} **John 21:20** Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following *them*; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?"

Just as a side note, when John is referred to as the disciple whom Jesus loved, it does not mean he didn't love the rest of the disciples. Rather, this suggests that like any human being who has relationships with other human beings, there are special attractions that we have with some that we don't have with others.

I love my wife in a way that I don't love my children. I love all brothers and sisters in the Lord, but there are some whom I "click" with in a way that makes me want to enjoy their company a little differently than I would with someone I may also love in the Lord. "Best friends" would be another way of explaining this human phenomenon.

Be that as it may, it is quite apparent that the rest of the disciples didn't seem to be put out over this arrangement between Jesus and John and Peter even takes advantage of this by whispering to John to get the low-down of who Jesus was referring to.

John 13:24 ²⁴ So Simon Peter gestured to him, and said to him, "Tell *us* who it is of whom He is speaking."

I'm sure John was just as curious as Peter and so we read:

John 13:25 ²⁵ He, leaning back thus on Jesus' bosom, said to Him, "Lord, who is it?"

And of course, Jesus gives John the answer that is couched in a riddle.

John 13:26 ²⁶ Jesus then answered, "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, *the son* of Simon Iscariot.

It's not clear as to whether or not the answer that Jesus gave to John was heard by the rest of the disciples at this particular time. Certainly, John would have understood. But, the context clearly tells us that the rest of the disciples did not understand what Jesus was about to do in dipping the morsel of bread in the oil, subsequently giving it to Judas as we see in the following verses.

John 13:28-29 ²⁸ Now no one of those reclining *at the table* knew for what purpose He had said this to him. ²⁹ For some were supposing, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus was saying to him, "Buy the things we have need of for the feast"; or else, that he should give something to the poor.

And so, the disciples assume that in giving Judas the morsel dipped in oil that this was his cue to go out and take care of whatever business the Lord had in mind. But notice that in verse 28 it says, none of those reclining at the table knew for what purpose Jesus had said this to Judas.

This opaque statement is placed in opposition to the clear statement made to John that this was said to point out who would betray Jesus. So, though we are told that none at that table understood what Jesus meant, this was not to include John, who most certainly knew.

But let's back up to verse 27.

John 13:27 ²⁷ After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."

If we go back a little further in this last supper experience with Jesus and his disciples, we read this.

John 13:2 ² During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, *the son* of Simon, to betray Him,

There's a tendency for people to blame the devil for acts that human beings do. Even today, among particular Christian groups, there is a teaching that addresses what some call generational sins or curses associated with demons that are placed on groups or individuals that determine how those people will act.

And though the bible does speak of such pronouncements by God on nations and peoples in a broad sense, including the nation of Israel, this has more to do with the sinful behavior that follows all men, which has the same outcome; God's judgment.

The apostles of Jesus even pointed this out to the Lord on one occasion thinking there was some legitimacy to this proposition that particular sins of the fathers are necessarily attached to their sons and daughters.

John 9:1-3 ^{NAU} As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. ² And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "*It was* neither *that* this man sinned, nor his parents; but *it was* so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

Where did the disciples get this idea that there are generational sins that continue throughout subsequent generations? It's actually a part of the 10 commandments that God gave to Moses for the nation of Israel.

Exodus 20:3-5 ³ "You shall have no other gods before Me. ⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. ⁵ "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,

To take this in a literalistic way is to miss the teaching that God is giving to Israel. The context is of a command to serve the one true God as opposed to serving other gods. What happens to people who serve other gods? They generally teach their children to serve other gods, who in turn teach their children to do the same.

This is not a generational curse as much as it is a generational reality, that sin begets sin because we're all sinners. People don't need a curse placed on them to be sinners. And yet, it is precisely because of a curse that all men are sinners.

Genesis 2:16-17 ¹⁶ The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

The curse of sin has followed mankind since the day that Adam rebelled against a holy God, and all mankind fell with him. This is the curse that we deal with, our own sinful hearts desiring to do what comes naturally. And what comes naturally is summed up best by the apostle Paul when writing to the church at Rome.

Romans 3:9-18 ⁹ What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; ¹⁰ as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; ¹¹ THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; ¹² ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE." ¹³ "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING," "THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS"; ¹⁴ "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS"; ¹⁵ "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD, ¹⁶ DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS, ¹⁷ AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN." ¹⁸ "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."

This is the curse all men deal with, and outside of God causing a new birth in the heart of an individual, we all continue to go our own way without needing special assistance from Satan to do evil. And so, when people sin, including Christians, we must never blame Satan for our sinful choices.

By the way, some of the same proponents of generational curses or sins will attribute certain sinful behavior with the “spirit” of demons. And so, instead of encouraging a believer to repent and turn to Christ for any particular sin in that person’s life, they are encouraged to pray for “deliverance” from whatever sin that apparently has jumped on them; be it the “spirit of nicotine”, the “spirit of adultery” or whatever “spirit” you blame your sin on.

Paul says, if you’re a believer you have been delivered from the curse of sin; all sin.

Galatians 3:13-14 ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us-- for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE "-- ¹⁴ in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

If we have been delivered from death to life then we are able and willing to seek the things of the Spirit of God, and to flee immorality of all types.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 ⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

This is the same message that Paul gave to the church in Ephesus.

Ephesians 2:1-6 ^{NAU} And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

So, by way of reminder, as it pertains to the curse of sin that God revealed to Israel in His command, not to worship any other gods, He is addressing the natural inclination of all people. But the following verse in Exodus 20: 6. gives us the hope that those who receive God’s lovingkindness will find forgiveness from the curse of sin. Let me read that passage again.

Exodus 20:5-6 ⁵ "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶ ***but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.***

God's grace is more than sufficient in showing lovingkindness to many as He turns their hearts to love and serve Him all their days, as he changes the heart from an idol worshipper, to a servant of the one true God.

Ezekiel 36:25-27 ²⁵ "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶ "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

As we come back to our text, the point is that though Satan put it into the heart of Judas to betray the Lord, his heart was already dead and had already betrayed the Lord two days before this supper.

Matthew 26:14-16 ¹⁴ Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and said, "What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?" And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him. ¹⁶ From then on he *begun* looking for a good opportunity to betray Jesus.

Betrayal was already in the heart of Judas before the last supper; it was simply encouraged by Satan as Judas carries out the desires of his heart. And once he acts on that heart of betrayal, we read this in our text.

John 13:27 ²⁷ After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."

Judas made a deal with the devil, and his father, Satan, now enters into him, suggesting that Judas has now been sealed, if you will, as he becomes demon possessed and emboldened to carry out the very decree of God that will secure the salvation for all of God's people. This was the very reason the Father sent His Son into the world; the very thing Jesus told the Jews earlier in this gospel.

John 6:38-40 ³⁸ "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹ "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

It was essential that Judas betray Jesus to fulfill all that the Father had predetermined before the foundations of the world to redeem a people for Himself in His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Acts 2:22-24 ²² "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know-- ²³ this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death. ²⁴ "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

^{NAU} **Acts 3:18** "But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

This was God's plan of grace that He has fulfilled for all who come to faith in the One sent from the Father.

^{NAU} **1 Peter 1:20** For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you

When we get together next time we'll pick up in verse 30 of our text that reads **John 13:30-31** ³⁰ So after receiving the morsel he went out immediately; and it was night. ³¹ Therefore when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him;

We'll spend some time sorting out how the crucifixion of Jesus Christ can in any way glorify the Son of Man and how that glorification is tied to the betrayal of Jesus Christ which will bring condemnation to Judas.