

Online Easter 2020 Holy Week of Devotionals

Wednesday, April 8th

One Of You Will Betray Me, [John 13:21-32](#)

After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So, while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So, when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night. When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.

Reflection - The pain of and healing from betrayal

Betrayal may be one of the deepest human pains. Even as you read this, you are probably already thinking of a painful memory in which someone said or did something to crush your spirit. We've all been there at some point. Like one person writes, *"You may not die at the hand of your betrayer, but something inside of you hurts so badly you might wish you were dead."*

The focus of Jesus betrayal is always Judas but in truth, we all have a part in His betrayal. Like Matthew records for us that, *"When it was evening, Jesus sat down at the table with the twelve disciples. While they were eating, he said, "The truth is, one of you will betray me." Greatly distressed, one by one they began to ask him, "I'm not the one, am I, Lord?"* (Matthew 26:20-25) When Jesus informs his disciples that *"one of you will betray me"* they all began to look within themselves and ask, *"It is not I, is it Lord?"* Maybe this Wednesday of Holy week it would be wise for us to look within our own hearts and ask, ***"it is not I, is it Lord?"*** We all realize that his disciples will all turn away from their master whom they confessed their love and devotion, even Peter. It should be pointed out supper is one of love and betrayal. In John 13:1 we read that, *"Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, **he loved them to the end.**"* You see love and betrayal always exist side by side. Betrayal can only exist with those with whom we have given ourselves in love. Love always risks betrayal. To deny that we could never betray Jesus is to deny that we truly love Him, or we are loved by Him. We are loved by him *"to the end"*, that is, He will never stop loving us! And so even after this night of love and betrayal, Jesus continues to the cross. And on the cross, Jesus proves that the healing and redemptive work of His love and forgiveness can withstand even our betrayal. Peter denied Jesus three times, and yet Jesus redeemed and restored Peter.

This Holy Week we remember and must never forget that no one is beyond the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. As we approach Good Friday and resurrection Day, let us reflect and remember that nothing or no one can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:37-39)

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as we reflect on your love, we admit that in love relationships, betrayal is always a possibility. Lord, we ask for your help to always be true to you and one another. Lead us not into the temptation of the evil one to doubt you. Trusting in your love and grace, help us to forgive those who have hurt and even betrayed our love. Help us to humbly seek forgiveness from those we have betrayed. And through your love and power, allow us to experience the joy of forgiveness and redemption provided through your sacrifice on the Cross. Oh God, fill us with your kindness and compassion that we might live loving and forgiving others just like you have loved and forgiven us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 4:31-32). We offer our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen!