**Forgive Your Judas’**

(John 13:18 KJV)

*I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.*

A

stranger may be able to hurt you, or deceive you, or beguile you; but only someone you care about deeply can betray you. A stranger does not hold your trust so they cannot betray you. In fact, you have little or nothing invested in a stranger. So you lose nothing.

In this chapter Jesus knew his betrayer. He knew what Judas was going to do. But! The impact of Judas’ actions was so powerful on all of the Disciples that you cannot find any favorable words about Judas in any of the gospel accounts. He is always mentioned as the one who betrayed Jesus.

Matter of fact some of us right now feel as though we have been betrayed. But whatever side of this word you stand; I want you to observe how Jesus dealt with the subject of betrayal. I want us to look at the one who never betrays us, the one who is always faithful and true. How he deals with those who spray on a watered down characteristic of friendship. But whenever it wears off you smell the odor of betrayal.

1. **The Scene before the Scandal:**

It happens on a night when Jesus has thoroughly washed the grit and grim from the Disciples feet. They are enjoying the lavish Paschal meal of the Passover. They’re gathered in a U-shaped, low table, sitting on the floor with their left elbows on the table. As the Disciples surround this U-shaped table, their feet are sticking out from behind the table or away from the table. And with their left elbows on the table, they’re able to use their right hand to eat the meal and to drink as need be.

Jesus has positioned himself in the base of the U, perhaps in the center position which is the place of the host. And he serves as the host at this meal. He is the one blessing and breaking the bread which is the role of the host.

There are two honored positions there at that portion of the table. There is the most honored position. And actually the most honored position is to the left. Just to the left and actually just slightly behind Jesus is the place of highest honor. And to the right of Jesus is the place of second highest honor. And Judas is sitting proudly in one of these honored seats amongst Jesus and the other Disciples.

Always remember! One thing about a betrayer, they always desire to sit in a seat of authority. Judas was a man appointed to authority but couldn’t handle working as a teammate! But notice Jesus always left him along. What a shame, Judas will soon sell Jesus out for 30 pieces of silver. This was a price of a slave! And Jesus while being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane will soon call Him a friend.