



LESSON 145 - MARK 14:17-21

And in the evening he cometh with the twelve. And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you which eats with me shall betray me. And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? and another said, Is it I?

And he answered and said unto them, It is one of the twelve, that dips with me in the dish. The Son of man indeed goes, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born.

After the disciples had found the man with the water pitcher and had followed him to a house, talked to the owner, and received permission to use his upper room for their passover, in obedience to what Jesus had told them, they made preparations for the meal. In the evening, Jesus and the other disciples came to the house and ate the food, which included roasted lamb and bitter herbs which had been prepared, in commemoration of the exodus of the Hebrews from the slavery of Egypt. Knowing that His time on Earth was growing short, and the hour of departure through His death was very near, Jesus revealed more of what His disciples would need to know to weather the coming crisis.

After the passover meal, but before Judas Iscariot left to complete his betrayal preparations, Jesus did an unusual thing. He washed the disciples' feet, including those of Judas Iscariot, the betrayer. In this, we see Jesus' humbleness and His greatness. (John 13) He was and is extraordinary.

Don't you find it amazing that none of the disciples suspected Judas of being the betrayer? Jesus knew who would betray Him (Jn 6:64), but the disciples were clueless about it. When Jesus specified that one of their own would be the betrayer, no one spoke up naming Judas as the obvious guilty one. Judas had preached the Word, participated in healing the sick, went on mission trips, and had taken part in all their activities. He had been at the beginning of Jesus' baptism and ministry, and followed Him everywhere. Yet Judas ended up being the betrayer of the Lord Jesus. We will later see that his anger and thievery extended an invitation and caused the door of his heart to be opened to the devil. (Jn 12:4-6, Mt 26:1-16, Mk 14:10-11, Jn 6:70 [adversary], Lk 22:1-6, Jn 13:27)

As you read John, chapters 13:31-18:1, you will learn what Jesus taught the disciples after Judas had left the house, and what Jesus prayed for them in His last hours with them. Feel His sorrow and sense His courage, as He faced the trying hours to come and prepared His disciples, "...having loved His own that were in the world, He loved them to the uttermost." (Jn 13:1) The lesson is short because I want you to read the chapters 13-18:1 in the gospel of John. Take some time to be with Jesus in those hours before His arrest.

