

WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY

The Glory of Christ's Omniscience

INTRODUCTION

This month the state of California went through a horrific crisis; one that they are too familiar with. A forest fire that has grown to over 10,000 acres. The fire was caused by a "smoke-generating pyrotechnic device" used at a gender reveal party. 30-year firefighters said they had never seen such a large and dangerous fire. This El Dorado fire turned deadly when a firefighter died after going missing while fighting the fire last week.

That was a reveal party that went terribly wrong. In the Upper Room, during the Passover feast with Jesus and the disciples there is another reveal taking place. It's a reveal that will have cosmic impact. It's revealing a traitor – a traitor of the Son of God.

CONTEXT:

We are reminded that the theme of John 13:1-30 is "cleansing". Prior to the intimate, personal, loving an hope-filled conversation that Jesus will have with the Eleven recorded in John 13:31-John 16, there is a cleansing of the individual disciples and there is a cleansing of the group – the expulsion of Judas.

From verses 1 through to 20 there are continual hints of this removal. Notice:

- a. Verse 2: *"During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him."*
- b. Verse 10-11: *"Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean.""*
- c. Verses 18-19: *"I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he." (John 13:18–19, ESV)*

Notice the artistry of John's record. Starting at verse 2 we are introduced to a short sentence 3 clauses. Then with intensified and greater revelation we come to reality that Judas is not going to be revealed to the other Eleven. Now comes the moment of his exposure.

TEXT: John 13:21-30 in Chronological Bible

“After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”” (John 13:21, ESV) “And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”” (Matthew 26:22–24, ESV) “The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus’ side, so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, “Lord, who is it?” Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it.” So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him.”” (John 13:22–27a, ESV) “Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.”” (Matthew 26:25, ESV) “Jesus said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.” Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the feast,” or that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.” (John 13:27b–30, ESV)

THE NARRATIVE

The anticipation to this event troubles our Savior (v21). Jesus’ own testimony tells us why He is troubled, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”¹ Can you imagine what was racing through the mind of Judas? Think of the reaction of the Eleven! Mark records, *“They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, “Is it I?””* (Mark 14:19, ESV). Does it not strike you as amazing that they did not ask, “Who is it?” They asked, “Is it I?”

Jesus dramatically reveals who is the betrayer. As they were eating the supper, He said He would give to the one who is the traitor a dipped morsel of bread. Culturally this was a sign of friendship. “The host at a feast (whose role was filled by Jesus) would dip into a common bowl and pull out a particularly tasty bit and pass it to a guest as a special mark of honor or friendship.”² What happened next is even more stunning. Satan entered/took possession of Judas. There is something deeply demonic about responding to the Savior as a friend while one’s heart is full of hatred. Not to be outdone by the others, the betrayer of betrayer, then asked, *“Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.””* (Matthew 26:25, ESV).

¹ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. (2016). (Jn 13:21). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

² MacArthur, J., Jr. (Ed.). (1997). *The MacArthur Study Bible* (electronic ed., p. 1612). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.

Jesus then sent Judas out. “What you are going to do, do quickly.”³ Only Christ, the One introduced at the beginning of this chapter, (“*Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God,*” (John 13:3, ESV)) could be so bold. Of course, the Eleven didn’t get it. They thought Jesus had sent him on a mercy mission. He was the treasurer.

The story ends with the most poignant of sentences. You can’t make this stuff up. This is so surreal. It’s as obvious as a fence maul to the head. “And it was night.”⁴

“Judas went out. *And it was night . . . Even though ‘the paschal moon was shining at the full’* (Howard, p. 690), Judas was swallowed up by the most awful darkness, indeed by outer darkness (Mt. 8:12; 22:13; 25:30). Judas was heading to his own place (*cf.* 1:5; 3:19–21; Acts 1:25).”⁵

APPLICATION

The drama here is amazing. It’s the epitome of “cloak and dagger” stuff. The deceit and the interplay between the individuals is stunning. “What is the message for the recipients of this Gospel? What is the message for us?” Thankfully we don’t have to guess at the intention of the Holy Spirit. Read with me to John 13:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.

Does that not line up perfectly with John’s Gospel aim? “*but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*” (John 20:31, ESV)

This amazing drama serves this noticeably clear purpose: **When the events take place (namely the betrayal of Jesus) this confirms that what Christ said is true, therefore confirming that He is God.** When God affirmed His Deity to Israel, He spoke through the prophet Isaiah:

“I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.”” (Isaiah 42:8–9, ESV)

So, here’s the point: Only God can tell you what is going to happen before it happens. But someone might say, “Well He knew it because it was prophesied in the Bible. He even said that.” Citing Psalm

³ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 13:27). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁴ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 13:30). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Howard W. F. Howard, ‘*The Gospel according to John,*’ *The Interpreter’s Bible*, vol. 8 (Abingdon, 1952).

⁵ Carson, D. A. (1991). [The Gospel according to John](#) (p. 476). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

41:9, Jesus said, “But the Scripture will be fulfilled, ‘He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.’”⁶ Let’s read that text in Psalm 41: “*Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.*” (Psalm 41:9, ESV). But this is a lament of David grieving that his faithless friend Ahithophel, his counselor and confidant, who had helped his son Absalom rebel against him. This is not a prophesy, per se. So what is it? In theology it is called a “parallel prophesy” or better Jesus is using David’s experience as a type or shadow of His own. He reaches back into the psalm and says, “I’m being betrayed by a friend just like David was.”

What is it that I’m wanting you to see? Jesus wants His disciples to know that He is omniscient and therefore He is God. He does not want us to simply suggest He knows the outcome because the Bible says so (because it doesn’t); He wants us to know that He knows the outcome because He knows the hearts of people.

To foretell the future because it is a recorded prophesy is one thing; but to foretell the future based upon what you see in the heart of a person is a God-thing. The Son of God knew exactly what was in Judas’ heart. He knew His intention. He knew exactly what was going to happen. This is a God-thing. Turn with me to Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Now many times we read that and teach that what the author is referring to is the Bible – the Word of God. But the author here is talking about a Person. Note verse 13: “*And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*” (Hebrews 4:13, ESV). Jesus is the Word of God – the Incarnate Word and He is the “discerner of thoughts and intentions of the heart”. “Nothing is hidden from his sight.” We are all “naked and exposed before Him.”

Christ knows us better than our parents; better than our spouses; better than our children. Christ knows us better than we know ourselves. Christ knows that we think we are better than we are. He knows that. He knows what is behind everything we do – our real motivation – our real intention. He knows the skeletons in our closets. He knows the things that if they came to light will ruin our reputation in a second.

David wrote a song about that. Turn with me to Psalm 139:1–4 (ESV)

⁶ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 13:18). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

¹ O Lord, you have searched me and known me! ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. ³ You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

He goes on to ask the question, “Where can I go where You are not there?” Answer? No where!

Now let me ask this question as I close: “Why does that not strike terror in our hearts?” For an unbeliever it should. For a non-Christian it should. But why does that not scare us to death? Christ knows everything about us that there is to know. The only answer that I can come up with is that its because of the Gospel. The Gospel removes all terror. John would later write, “*There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.*” (1 John 4:18, ESV).

For those who are in Christ we are aware that “In love [God] predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ.”⁷ And we are aware that nothing “will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”⁸ Jason Helopoulos writes,

“God knows our weaknesses, failings, and sins, but instead of that knowledge causing Him to despise us, He responds with care for us. Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me” (John 10:14). My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our Good Shepherd knows us thoroughly. Nothing about us, from the greatest to the slightest thing, from the most obvious to the most private thing, remains hidden from Him. In fact, He knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows us through and through, yet He does not despise us. On the contrary, the better a shepherd knows his sheep, the better he can provide for those sheep.”⁹

For the Christian there is no truth more comforting than the truth that God knows your heart. For the unbeliever it ought to be the greatest terror.

Gospel.

⁷ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Eph 1:4–5). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁸ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ro 8:39). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁹ <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/he-knows-us/>