

INTRODUCTION

During the Iraqi War, American networks carried the statements of the Iraqi Information Minister, Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf. He was labeled “Baghdad Bob.” He hasn’t been heard from lately, but he claimed he would escape to some tropical island—but can you believe him? Here are some of his actual statements: (1) “The American press is all about lies! All they tell is lies, lies and more lies!” (2) “They are not in Baghdad. They are not in control of any airport. I tell you this. It is all a lie. They lie. It is a Hollywood movie.” (3) “Americans are wild donkeys. We will welcome them with bullets and shoes.” (4) “There are no American infidels in Baghdad. NEVER!”

You may think Baghdad Bob is the biggest liar who ever lived, but we are going to meet a bigger liar than him in our text today—his name is Satan. In Luke’s gospel, we have arrived at the night before the cross. In the first thirty verses of Luke 22, we are going to focus on three different individuals or groups. First, we’re going to examine Judas Iscariot’s plot to betray Jesus; then we’ll consider what Jesus had to say at the Last Supper. The finally we’ll focus on the attitude of the disciples of Jesus just hours before the cross. We’ll be reading each passage of scripture as we discuss it so, keep your Bible’s open. First, let’s see

I. JUDAS: LET’S MAKE A DEAL (1-6)

Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people. Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. They were delighted and agreed to give him money. He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present. (Luke 22:1-6)

The name Judas was a beautiful name. It came from the name, Judah, which means “praise.” Judas took a beautiful name and made it ugly. Nobody names their son Judas. On the other hand “Jesus” was a very common name, but Jesus elevated that common name to a name above every other name.

Nobody likes a traitor. Benedict Arnold was an American general during the Revolutionary War, serving as superintendent of West Point. He became bitter because he wasn’t promoted fast enough, and he fell deeply into debt. He hatched a plot to hand over the keys to West Point to Sir Henry Clinton, commander of the British fleet for a sum of 20,000 pounds sterling (about \$1 million). His plan failed, and he fled to England. He later returned as a British officer to fight against the American patriots. His name is held in contempt and he will forever be regarded as a traitor.

When American forces were in Afghanistan removing the Taliban, they were surprised to find American John Walker Lindh, fighting with Al Qaeda. He was a confused kid who converted to Islam after watching the movie “Malcolm X”, and he ended up fighting against American forces.

Due to a plea bargain, he is currently serving 20 years in federal prison for aiding and abetting the enemy. The label “traitor” will follow him for the rest of his life.

The Jewish leaders were delighted when a member of Jesus’ inner circle offered to hand Him over. The word “discussed” means they haggled over a price. We know from the other accounts he agreed to hand Jesus over to them for a measly 30 pieces of silver—the exact amount prophesied by Zechariah 500 years earlier. Here are some Judas’ lessons:

1. You can associate with Jesus and His followers without ever being cleansed

Judas followed Jesus for three years. He heard His wonderful teaching, watched Him heal the sick, calm the storm, and feed 5,000 people with five loaves and two fishes. Even though Judas was “associated” with Jesus and the other disciples, he was never truly transformed.

On this same evening, John tells us Jesus washed the disciples’ feet—that would have included Judas. In this act, Jesus was providing a beautiful picture of how salvation is like getting a bath. Jesus said to Peter, “‘person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.’ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.” (John 13:10-11) Jesus clearly indicated Judas had not yet trusted Christ for cleansing.

Judas represents all the people who have the outward appearance of being a follower of Jesus, but they have never been cleansed from within. These are people speak the correct religious jargon, they give their money to their church, they attend the services, but they have never been cleansed from their sinful condition.

Don’t be too quick to condemn Judas. He serves as a warning to us all that we can be close to the things of Jesus, yet in your heart be as spiritually dead as Judas, for God reveals all of us has a Benedict Arnold and a Judas inside of us. His name is Adam, Old Adam, Nature, Sinful Nature. He would like nothing more than to betray Jesus for money or fame. He would like nothing more than to hand Jesus over to his enemies.

I read another pastor’s account of a young man in his church who came to know Jesus as a high school student. The teenager got fired up for Jesus and was a real leader among the young people. When he went off to college, he started struggling with his faith. He listened to professors who ridiculed the Bible and he ran with a crowd that partied into the wee hours of the morning. On a visit home, he talked to his pastor about his struggle. The pastor listened patiently and told him we all face temptation, and we have to make a choice to either follow Jesus, or give in to the world, the flesh, and the devil. He even talked about the choice Judas made. A few weeks later the pastor got a letter from the college student, it said:

DEAR PASTOR: “As you know, I’ve been struggling with this matter of Christianity, but I’ve decided that I’m going to give up on it. It’s too hard, and there are just too many temptations. I’ve decided to quit going to church and reading my Bible. I’m going to go my own way.” He signed it “Sincerely, Judas Iscariot.”

2. Satan knows and targets your weak points

Luke tells us “Satan entered into Judas.” Temptation takes place in your mind, so that means Satan entered Judas’ mind and placed the thought of betraying Jesus. You can’t blame Satan, because the devil cannot force his way into your mind. Judas opened the door of his mind to Satan, the same way we must open the door of our hearts to Jesus.

Satan attacked Judas at his weak point. Judas loved money—he was greedy. In John’s gospel, we learn a few nights earlier Mary anointed the feet of Jesus with a very expensive perfume. Judas objected by saying, “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It’s worth a year’s worth of wages!” But John tells us Judas didn’t care for the poor, but because he was a thief, and kept the money bag. He would dip into the money bag for his own use. Jesus responded by saying, “She has done a good thing. She has anointed my body for burial. You’ll always have the poor with you, but you won’t always have me.” (John 12:5-8). Judas loved money more than he loved Jesus.

If you learn anything about the devil, understand he is a liar. Everything Satan says is a lie. Jesus said in John 8:44, “You belong to your father, the devil...he was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

Satan’s biggest lie is the one he told Eve in the Garden of Eden. Satan’s first recorded statement to a person is a question. He asked, “Did God really say, ‘Don’t eat this fruit?’” Where God puts a period, Satan substitutes a question mark. He is still questioning the Word of God. Jesus said everything Satan says is a lie. He told Eve the same thing he told Judas, and the same thing he tells you, “You don’t have to obey God. You can get away with it—it will be good for you. Nobody will ever know.” Don’t believe him. Now, let’s focus on

II. JESUS: THE FIRST AND LAST SUPPER (7-20)

Luke 22:7-20. “Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, ‘Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.’ ‘Where do you want us to prepare for it?’ they asked. He replied, ‘As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teachers asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there.’ They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover. When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, ‘I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.’ After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, ‘Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.’ And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.’”

If you have ever seen the famous painting by Leonardo da Vinci you may think Jesus and His disciples were sitting at a table European style, as if posing for a portrait. Instead, they were reclining on rugs and pillows surrounding a low table. This has often been called the Last Supper—but it was also the First Supper. It was the last supper as regarding the Jewish Passover—which was part of the Old Covenant, but it was the first supper relating to the new covenant Jesus made.

Mealtimes should be calm and peaceful. Have you ever had a meal ruined because of an argument, or a remark someone made? The last supper was not some calm, peaceful setting suitable for framing—it was filled with tension and stress. There were a couple of uninvited guests who crashed the party that night. We’ve already met one—Satan was there in the spirit of betrayal Judas possessed. Jesus pointed out the presence of the betrayer. There was also a guest called “division” there. We are going to see the disciples start arguing about who was the greatest. In spite of these distractions, we can learn two important lessons:

1. Jesus is our Passover Lamb

Every spring the Jews commemorated an event that occurred 1,400 years earlier. At that time, the Jews were slaves living in Egypt. God called Moses to tell Pharaoh to set the Hebrew people free from their bondage. Pharaoh refused. God sent a series of plagues to warn Pharaoh that He said what He meant and meant what He said. But Pharaoh still refused, so God sent a final plague. On a certain day He warned His Death Angel would arrive in Egypt. The firstborn child in every family would die unless people followed His instructions. He told them to take a young lamb and slay it. Then the blood would be smeared on the doorposts and lintel of the door of their house. After that the lamb would be roasted and the family members would walk in under the blood and have a meal in which they would eat all the roasted lamb. Whenever the Death Angel saw the blood of the lamb applied to the doorpost, He would pass over that family and there would be no death. But when there was no blood applied, death would visit that home.

For those who obeyed God, and trusted His Word, they could rest inside knowing God’s judgement would pass over them. By consuming the lamb they were receiving strength for the long journey ahead. They ate unleavened bread because they were in such a hurry to leave there wasn’t time for the bread dough to rise before they left.

The Bible makes it clear Jesus is our Passover Lamb. Paul wrote, “For Christ our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.” (1 Corinthians 5:7-8)

The Passover Lamb had to be one year old—in the prime of life. Jesus died at 33, which may be considered the prime of life. The Passover Lamb could not have any kind of imperfection or flaw. Jesus was the only man to live on earth who never committed any sin of thought or deed. Not a bone of the Passover Lamb was to be broken, and although Jesus endured terrible torture, none of His bones were fractured. The Passover Lamb had to be eaten for nourishment and

strength. We literally “receive” the Spirit of Jesus Christ into our hearts in the same way our stomach receives food.

2. The last Passover meal became the first memorial meal

Jesus took two common elements of the Passover supper and gave them new meaning. The unleavened bread symbolized His body. Leaven, or yeast, represented sin, and Jesus was affirming that His character was flawless like the Passover Lamb. It was broken to symbolize His suffering. The cup of wine would provide a powerful symbol for His blood that would be shed. Jesus wasn’t trying to institute some kind of liturgical observance; He was giving us a simple memory lesson. He said, “As often as you eat this and drink this, REMEMBER me.”

It became a part of the routine whenever the first believers met together. By the time Christianity spread to the Roman Empire, all churches were observing this memorial meal. Paul wrote about the power of the bread and cup in I Corinthians 11:26: “For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

I heard a true story about a pastor’s wife who was explaining to their five year old daughter about the bread and the cup. She explained the bread was like the body of Jesus, and the cup of grape juice was like the blood of Jesus. Her daughter nodded. Several weeks later, when the pastor was late coming home, the little daughter asked where he was. Her mother explained he had stopped by to donate blood so sick and injured people could use his blood. At first, the little girl was confused, and then she said, “But we know it’s really just grape juice he’s giving, right mom?”

While we drink grape juice and eat unleavened bread, we need to remember those are symbols, but Jesus really *did* suffer, die, and shed His blood for the forgiveness of our sins. There’s nothing magical or miraculous about the bread or cup, they are symbols—the real miracle was the cross. I could show you a picture of my wife and say, “This is my wife, Cindy.” It’s not really my wife—it’s a representation of her. When Jesus said, “This is my body, and this is my blood” He was using bread and wine to simply represent the real thing.

Let’s finish by considering the:

III. DISCIPLES: THE DANGER OF DIVISION (21-30)

Judas had betrayal in his heart, Jesus had love in His heart, and the other disciples all had arrogance in their hearts. You can read about it beginning in verse 21:

But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, but woe to that man who betrays him.” They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be the greatest. Jesus said, to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one

who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” (Luke 22:21-30)

1. Satan’s favorite scheme is to divide and conquer

It’s amazing to me that on the evening before the Son of God would give His life for the sins of the world, the disciples were sitting around arguing about who was the greatest. As they began to discuss which one of them would betray Jesus, it led them to each insist they never would do such a thing. In Mark’s account, Peter says, “Even if these others leave you, Jesus, I never will!” (Mark 14:29) Can you hear the pride and arrogance in his voice?

Remember, one of the uninvited guests at the supper was Satan—and he brought along his pal, division. His strategy has always been to divide and conquer. He uses division and strife as one of his chief tools. In the Garden of Eden, he waited until Eve was all alone before he suggested she could disobey God and it wouldn’t hurt her. It is Satan’s desire to divide every marriage, every family, every church, every city and every nation.

Peter compared Satan to a lion. He wrote, “Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith.” (1 Peter 5:8-9) Most of us have seen films of lions attacking wildebeests in Africa. The lions usually identify a weak member of the herd, then they will try to separate it from the others. Once they have it split from the herd’s protection, they attack. That’s exactly what Satan does—he tries to separate you from others—he doesn’t want you to have a strong marriage, he doesn’t want you to be a part of a loving Sunday School class—he wants to keep you isolated. You’re easier to attack that way. That’s why we need to do what God says and resist him, and stand firm in the faith.

2. Spiritual greatness is revealed by humble service to others

Jesus said the world’s standard for greatness is not the standard God uses. The Romans (Gentiles) were in control of Israel, so there was a definite line of authority. The disciples were arguing about who would sit on the right and left hand of Jesus when He became king. Jesus gently rebuked them for trying to copy the Roman style of authority. Just hours before the cross, they were trying to vie for position in the pecking order. Bill Hybels noted:

“Take ten chickens, any ten. Put them in a pen together, and spread a little chicken feed. In short order, you will witness an amazing phenomenon. In a matter of minutes, the chickens, previously strangers, will form a hierarchy based on dominance or, in everyday language, they will establish a Pecking Order. Instinctively, they will determine, through a series of skirmishes, who the Number One chicken will be; then the Number Two; the Number Three; all the way down to the unlucky Number Ten chicken.

Much is at stake in this dance of domination. Chicken Number One pecks at and intimidates Chicken Number Two, without experiencing any kind of retribution from

Chicken Number Two. Chicken Number Two will take it from Chicken Number One but will turn around and peck away at Chicken Number Three, who will in turn, take out its frustration on Chicken Number Four. The Pecking Order continues all the way down to Chicken Number Ten, who, needless to say, has a pretty miserable life—pecked but no one to peck.” (*Seven Wonders of the Spiritual World*, p. 115)

We have a pecking order too, we just don’t admit it. We use jobs, the neighborhood we live in, the cars we drive, the schools we attend...and a host of other factors to determine the pecking order. Jesus said greatness is determined using the reverse pecking order: The servant of all becomes the greatest of all.

Paul wrote, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.” (Philippians 2:3) Jesus said in verse 27, “I am among you as one who serves.” Luke doesn’t record it, but we know from John 13 Jesus had begun the last supper by going around and washing the feet of the disciples—that was the job of the lowliest slave—yet Jesus gladly performed that loving act of service.

Satan divides marriages, families, churches and nations when everyone has the attitude that they are better than the other person. When we take on the role of a servant and consider others better than ourselves, we are demonstrating the spirit of Jesus.

CONCLUSION

Just a few hours before the cross, one of the inner circles of disciples made a deal to betray Jesus. Then the others were arguing over who was greatest. In spite of these uninvited guests, Jesus took time to give us a tool to remember His death. He lovingly taught the disciples about the power of unselfish service.

He promised they would be a part of a heavenly kingdom one day. The promise of heaven is why Jesus endured the cross. Are you going to heaven when you die? I heard a funny story recently about two men who happened to arrive at the pearly gates of heaven at the same time. The angel in charge asked the first guy what he did and why he should be admitted to heaven. The man said, “I was a doctor. I helped sick people get well.” The angel said, “Come on in.” The second man said, “I’m sorta’ like that guy. I managed an HMO.” The angel said, “An HMO is a health management organization. I helped people get admitted into the hospital so the doctors could help them get well.” The angel said, “That’s sounds pretty good, you can come on in...but you can only stay for two days.”

You don’t get into heaven by being good or doing good. There is only one way into the heaven and that is the way of the cross—the cross of Jesus. There’s a beautiful old hymn written by Jessie Pounds that says, “I must needs go home by the way of the cross, there’s no other way but this; I shall ne’er get sight of the gates of light, If the way of the cross I miss. The way of the cross leads home; It is sweet to know as I onward go, The way of the cross leads home.”

OUTLINE

I. JUDAS: LET’S MAKE A DEAL (1-6)

1. You can associate with Jesus and His followers without ever being cleansed
Jesus said, “A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not everyone of you.” For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. *John 13:10*

2. Satan knows and targets your weak points

II. JESUS: THE FIRST AND LAST SUPPER (7-20)

1. Jesus is our Passover Lamb

“For Christ our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.” *1 Corinthians 5:7-8*

2. The last Passover meal became the first memorial meal

“For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” *1 Corinthians 11:26*

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“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.” *Philippians 2:3*



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To put it in Texas terms, “You’re mighty welcome to use any and all of my ingredients; just make your own chili!”

For the Joy...
Pastor David Dykes