

Verses 21-22

Jesus becomes troubled in spirit as He knows the time of His betrayal is at hand. Jesus knows it will be Judas that will betray Him, but He is still troubled in His soul. Here in this verse Jesus indicates the importance of His following words by stating “truly, truly.” He then announces that one of them who are present with Him in the upper room will betray Him. These are the men who had walked with Him and experienced amazing things with Him in His ministry for over 3 years. In this intimate moment in the upper room, Jesus announced a bombshell to them, that one of them would betray Him.

Upon hearing the news that one would betray Jesus, the disciples were at a loss of who it was to be. There was not one of them that the others looked at and thought it was probably that person. They were a tight group, and this news came as a shock to them.

Verses 23-25

Jesus and His disciples were not seated at a table on one side as Leonardo Da Vinci’s painting indicated. Rather, they would have been laying on their left sides with their right arms free to eat and drink. The disciple “whom Jesus loved” is the apostle John who is the author of this gospel account. John would have been positioned to the right of Jesus and when reclining would have been able to recline on Jesus. Because John was next to Jesus, Peter (who many believe was seated across the table) motions to John to try to ask Jesus and find out who it is that would betray Him. John then leans back on Jesus and asks “Lord, who is it?”

Verse 26

Jesus answers the question to whom it was that would betray Him. It would be the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him. In that culture to betray someone was one thing, but to betray someone you have eaten bread with was an even greater betrayal. He gave the bread to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. It appears that the others did not hear His response as they were farther away from Jesus, or they were still confused as later as later they would still question why Judas had left.

- **Psalm 41:5-9** My enemies speak evil against me, “When will he die, and his name perish?”
⁶ And ^[e]when he comes to see *me*, he speaks ^[f]falsehood; His heart gathers wickedness to itself; When he goes outside, he tells it. ⁷ All who hate me whisper together against me; Against me they devise my hurt, *saying*, ⁸ “A wicked thing is poured out ^[g]upon him, That when he lies down, he will not rise up again.”
⁹ Even my close friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.
- **John 6:65-71** And He was saying, “For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.”⁶⁶ As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, “You do not want to go away also, do you?” ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.” ⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, “Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?” ⁷¹ Now He meant Judas *the son* of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, ^[k]was going to betray Him.
- **Acts 1:16** “Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.

Verse 27

The opportune time

Judas in accordance with His free will (which is in slaved to sin and the devil) has chosen to betray Christ and now satan himself possesses Judas.

Judas had already made the deal to betray Jesus and was waiting for the opportune time.

- **Matthew 26:14-16** Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and said, "What are you willing to give me ^[a] to ^[b] betray Him to you?" And they weighed out thirty ^[c] pieces of silver to him. ¹⁶ From then on he *began* looking for a good opportunity to ^[d] betray ^[e] Jesus.

The perfect time to betray Christ was not on Judas's timing, but in accordance with the sovereign Heavenly timeline. This betrayal was ordained before the foundation of the world and the time for it to come to pass is now. Therefore, Jesus gives the command that what Judas is about to do, do it quickly.

Not everyone who says Lord, Lord

Judas has walked with Jesus for over three years. He had heard His sermons and been an eyewitness to His miracles. He had a role as the treasurer and even shared the news of Jesus to others. However, he was not a Christian and was an enemy of God. With every sermon and teaching he heard Jesus teach and with every miracle he was an eyewitness to, his heart became more hardened. Judas looked the part of a Christian and sounded like a Christian, but he was not.

- **Matthew 7:21-23** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. ²² Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many ^[a] miracles?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'

John was seated on Jesus' right side which in our culture is the seat of honor. However, in their culture the one seated on the left was considered to have the seat of honor. It was custom that the host would give the guest of honor who would have been seated on their left the first of the bread that had been dipped which was known as the sop. As a result, many believe that Judas was seated on Jesus' left the night of the betrayal which would have been the seat of honor. He was the honored guest. It would be Judas' actions in leaving this supper to betray Jesus that would lead to the arrest, trial, and ultimately the death of Christ. He would have the most important role this evening as His betrayal which He meant for evil would be meant for good by God for the saving of many lives as Christ's death would redeem and save His elect. Jesus was on His Father's Heavenly timeline and the time for this betrayal was perfect as Jesus told Judas to do what He had to, do it quickly because Jesus' hour is here!