

## Exegetical Notes, John 13:21-30

### “Betrayal”

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## John 13:21-30

### Verses 21-25

*After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.”*

<sup>22</sup> *His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant.*

<sup>23</sup> *One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him.*

<sup>24</sup> *Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, “Ask him which one he means.”*

<sup>25</sup> *Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?”*

- In verses 18-20, Jesus predicted that one of the disciples would betray him. The clear implication is that he knew which one of them it would be. Verse 21 indicates that this knowledge troubled Jesus greatly. He told the entire group that he knew that his betrayal was at hand.
- The disciples were perplexed. Which of them would betray Jesus.
- John, referred to as “the disciple whom Jesus loved,” was reclining at the table so that he could easily speak privately to Jesus. Peter indicated to John that John should privately ask Jesus which disciple would betray him. So John privately asked Jesus for this information.

### Verses 26-27

*Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. <sup>27</sup> As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.*

*So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.”*

- Jesus told John that it would be the one to whom he handed the sop of bread which he then held. Jesus handed the sop to Judas.
- The handing of the sop to Judas is apparently the determinative event in the story. Somehow, when Judas took the sop of bread, he indicated his acceptance of the role of betrayer and his fate was then sealed. “Satan entered into him.” Prior to that moment, the issue was unsettled. But now it was determined. Judas would betray Christ.

- Jesus then told Judas to do what he was intending to do quickly.

### Verses 28-30

***But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. <sup>29</sup> Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. <sup>30</sup> As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.***

- Apparently everyone was shocked and confused by these events. Even though the handing of the sop to Judas was a sign to John, no one seemed to know what was happening or why Jesus told Judas to do what he was going to do quickly.
- Judas took the sop and left. That it was night when Judas left indicates that the world and Judas' soul were flooded with evil as the death of the Light of the World approached.

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