

GREATER

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF JOHN

GREATER: the book of John

SCRIPTURE: John 18: JESUS > BETRAYAL

John 18:1-6

1When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.

2Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. **3**So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

4Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"

5"Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

"I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) **6**When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

The first interesting thing I see in this passage is the reaction of those who have come to arrest Jesus. (vs. 6)

The entourage that Judas brings with him, finds Jesus in the garden. We don't know if Judas first took this crowd to the Upper Room and then knew to look in the garden of Gethsemane, but they arrive to surprise Jesus, but I think they were the ones who were surprised.

They think they have the upper hand with the insider information from Judas, but Jesus is waiting for them. They walk into the dark garden after midnight to ambush Jesus and he appears out of the darkness.

I think Jesus **strength and presence** surprised them and they were taken aback. That along with the overnight dew and they fell to the ground.

Either way, Jesus proves from the very beginning of this confrontation that he is in control and they are not.

John 18:7-9

7 Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?"

"Jesus of Nazareth," they said.

8 Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go." **9** This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."

The other gospels record that Judas indicated who Jesus was by a kiss. This would be a customary greeting in Jewish culture. (like some cultures still do today)

Poetic, right? That greeting reserved for those you love, now used for treachery.

The gospel accounts of Mark and Matthew use the greek word **kataphiléō**, *kat-af-ee-leh'-o*; to kiss earnestly. It is the same word used to describe the way the sinful woman kissed Jesus feet and washed his feet with her tears in Luke 7.

This word indicates that Judas kissed Jesus profusely. intensely. earnestly. Was it just a show? Was Judas caught up in the emotion of what he was doing? We don't know.

But John does not even mention it.

John 18:10-14

10Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

11Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

12Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him **13**and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. **14**Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people.

There's one more thing that is missing from this account. The ear. John records that it was Peter who drew his sword and cut off the ear of Malchus.

Luke records that Jesus put it back.

Jesus is taken from the garden to Annas, and then to the High Priest Caiaphas and eventually to Pilate. And it was all initiated by Judas' betrayal.

JESUS > **BETRAYAL**

We have all experienced betrayal on some level.

Friends leave each other hanging. Deep secrets get told to others. Spouses turn their backs on their vows.

There are different levels, but we have all experienced it in some form or fashion. Most of the betrayal we face does not end in our physical death as it did for Jesus. But the pain of betrayal stings no matter the context or severity.

It leaves us hurting and sometimes calloused and cold.

The Bible says this about Jesus.

Hebrews 4:14-15

14Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. **15**For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

If that's true, which it is, then Jesus had the opportunity to allow Judas' actions to cause him to sin.

JESUS DID NOT ALLOW BETRAYAL TO CHANGE HIS HEART FOR HIS FRIENDS

John 18:1

1When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.

Jesus left the upper room with his friends. They went to a familiar place, a garden where Jesus prayed and asked God for mercy.

Judas shows up with the Jewish authorities and Roman guards.

John 18:8-9

8Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go." **9**This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."

Jesus, in the midst of betrayal and arrest, is concerned for his friends. I think his reaction was two-fold.

First, he had promised and prayed for their safety. (vs. 9)

Second, he was counting on them being his witnesses.

THE SADDEST THING ABOUT BETRAYAL IS THAT
IT NEVER COMES FROM YOUR ENEMIES.

Even though this is true, Jesus never lost sight of his friends.

JESUS DID NOT ALLOW BETRAYAL TO CHANGE HIS MISSION

During the meal in the upper room, Jesus says to Judas...

John 13:27b

So Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly."

Jesus neither let Judas off the hook, nor did he keep him from doing what his heart was set on doing. Jesus did not completely expose him in front of the other disciples.

John 13:28-30

28But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him.

29Since 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. **30**As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

Jesus could have stopped Judas, or he could have outed him to the others. But he didn't, why? His mission was too important.

John 3:16-17

16For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **17**For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Jesus understood and embraced his mission. He was not going to let this act of betrayal to derail his purpose. As a matter of fact, he allowed God to work his plan through the betrayal.

John 18:2-3

2Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. **3**So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

JESUS ALLOWED BETRAYAL TO BE WOVEN INTO
HIS LIFE'S MISSION.

Even the people who betray you are part of the plan.

JESUS DID NOT ALLOW BETRAYAL TO CHANGE HIS LOVE FOR THE WORLD

John 18:12-14

12Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him **13**and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. **14**Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people.

Did you notice this, Jesus allows them to arrest him and take him before Annas, and then to Caiaphas, the High Priest.

He could have stopped it right there, but he didn't.

He loved the world so much he continued. All the way to Calvary.

1 John 3:16

16This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

In the next couple weeks we will see that Jesus love for the world and for us never wavered. In the face of betrayal, Jesus was steadfast. He never blinked.

He did not allow Judas' betrayal to overshadow his love for us.

He went to Calvary for love.

Small Group Questions.

1. Can you think of another company like Blockbuster that rose to be a leader in an industry that is no longer here? What caused its demise?
2. Do you remember the last movie you rented from Blockbuster? Do you still have your card?
3. Have you ever had a friend that broke a confidence? What was your reaction? What things did you feel? Have you been able to mend the relationship / is it in the process?
4. What do you think caused Judas to betray Jesus? Are there times when we are "like" Judas?
5. Read John 18:3-11. When you see the initial actions of the soldiers and that of Peter, do they react the way that you would have expected?
6. Read Hebrews 4:14-15. What does this passage tell us about Jesus?
7. We see in verses 15 thru 18, and 25 thru 27 Peter's denial. Peter's action was one of the reasons that led to him being identified and his last denial. Are you known as a follower of Jesus by your actions? If so, what is the impression left on the world?
8. How do we not allow hurt or betrayal to effect our future relationships?

9. How does the world reject Jesus? How do we deny or reject Jesus in our daily lives?
10. This week focus on a way to make a positive impact on someone in your sphere of influence.