

#1: A Traitor in Our Midst March 10-12, 2007

¹It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

²The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." ⁹"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" ¹⁰Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. ¹²When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶Very truly I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. ¹⁸"I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: 'He who shared my bread has lifted up his heel against me.' ¹⁹"I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am. ²⁰Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me." ²¹After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me." ²²His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which

of them he meant. ²³One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. ²⁴Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means." ²⁵Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶Jesus 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. ²⁷As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly." 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. ³⁰As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night. *John 13:1-30 TNIV*

Introduction: The final 24 hours of Jesus' life changed everything. God's plan to redeem humanity was finally executed in that one day, and it all began with a celebration supper among Jesus' closest friends. In their midst sat a traitor, a double agent who was vital to God's plan.

- I. Jesus Delivered
 - A. The time of God's choosing had come, and Jesus was ready to execute his mission of redemption. (v.1a)
 - B. Jesus' only motivation was pure love. (v.1b)
 - C. The plan involved the use of a known double-agent, Judas the Red, activated by the evil empire. (v.2)
 - D. Jesus had full authority to act on his own. (v.3)
- II. Jesus Degraded
 - A. By washing the disciples' feet, Jesus embodied everything that threatened those who awaited a warrior Messiah who could overthrow the Romans. (vv.4-5)
 - B. The other agents did not have full knowledge of the plan, and did not understand what Jesus was doing. (vv.6-17)
- III. Jesus Deceived?
 - A. The plan of redemption had been written from the beginning of time. (v.18)
 - B. Jesus divulged part of the plan in advance to verify his true identity to his agents, the apostles. (vv.19-20)
 - C. Jesus identified his betrayer to the others. (vv.21-26)
 - D. Secretly, Jesus was not deceived, rather he was using the double agent to fulfill his mission. (vv.27-30)

Conclusion: The day that changed all days had begun, and God's redemptive plan had unfolded. Nothing could stop it now!