

Love and betrayal

△ John 13:18-30

Intro

Have you been in conversations
that were puzzling

People speak normal English

You understand every word

But you do not get what they are
talking about

Football conversations

I have that with football

I do not understand it

I do not like it

And I do not want to know about it

So if people make a joke about
something involving football

I do not get it

People laugh, but I do not know what
they are laughing about

Social interactions

Or in other conversations

Someone uses terminology

Or you have missed an earlier event, or
conversation

And you miss the point

And you miss the point

It can be quite disturbing sometimes

And you start to doubt yourself

Story

Participants at the footwashing

Having just witnessed the outpouring of Jesus love

By washing the disciples' feet

Jesus suddenly changes topic

He suddenly seems to speak about one of them

Calling them blessed if they follow his example

Except for one of them

The one who ate my bread has lifted their heel against me

Reference to Ps 41:9

A person who is in the trusted company, acts like a stubborn horse and kicks its owner

Love betrayed

Sharing a fellowship meal is rewarded by violence!

What would the disciples have thought

Who is it?

Or am I missing something?

What is Jesus talking about

Jesus re-iterates

he warns them that someone of them does not have good intentions

So that they know, that he knew

Did nothing about it either and let it happen

So that they know that Jesus is "I am"

I am the Messiah

I am God

Positive interlude

He who welcomes some who Jesus sent welcomes Jesus

And he who welcomes Jesus, welcomes the Father (who sent Jesus)

That sounds positive and encouraging

But having said this Jesus becomes troubled in spirit

Troubled leaning towards anger

Is it because he knows that people will reject him and therefore reject God completely

As they are not safe with him?

One of you will betray me

all are then uncertain - looking at each other

Simon Peter takes the initiative

Just signals to the beloved disciple

"beloved disciple" - is it John, or the author

Only appears in this last part of the gospel

But clearly one who loves Jesus, and who Jesus returns love to

Able to recline next to Jesus

Is it the author or a major witness of these events?

Peter did not want to bring this topic out in a major discussion

So he quietly signals to the BD to ask

So he can at least know the answer afterwards

The beloved disciple leans in to Jesus

And asks quietly: who is it, Lord?

Was it so quiet that the others did not hear?

and as BD is the one who tells this story

Is he the only one who hears?

And possible Judas?

As he must also be close to Jesus in order to be able to receive the bread from him

Jesus indicates with a morsel of bread dipped in the dish

Giving it to Judas

"He is the one"

Again did the others hear the answer?

Or did it not make sense to them as they had not heard the question?

Satan enters Judas

Receiving the bread of Jesus

A token of love, fellowship, belonging, community

Works the other way

Whatever resentment Judas had to Jesus

It seems to have been amplified

This seems to be echoed later in Romans 12:20

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap **burning coals** on his head."

For whatever reason Judas could not accept this token of love from Jesus

And only made up his mind to betray him

And as a result give his heart to Satan

And Jesus saw that too!

Jesus gives Judas permission to do

What was needed

Someone in the grand scale of things had to betray Jesus

Judas was the one

And Jesus then allowed it to happen

As he knew that as the Messiah he needed to be betrayed, flogged, ridiculed and crucified

But in these words you sense the inevitability and the sorrow in Jesus' heart

So Judas left

Disciples' perception

At this stage all the other disciples are lost

What is going on here?

Except perhaps the BD

As he witnessed the whole conversation

The others only heard snippets

As they have to make assumptions

And they presume that Jesus asked Judas to do an errand or to give money to the poor

As we learn that he also was the money keeper for the group

and perhaps a possible motivation for his actions

Judas went out and it was night

Physically

Metaphorically

Spiritually

The light of Jesus has dimmed in Judas' heart

Judas' motivation

Is quite unclear

In John we are only hearing of Judas son of Simon Iscariot, that he will betray Jesus

⁷⁰ Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!" ⁷¹ (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)

△ John 6:70-71

In response to the question to the 12 if they also wanted to leave him

³ Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume

⁴ But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵ “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.” ⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

△ John 12: 3-5

Indicating that Judas weakness was money and perhaps the motivation to get the reward

But this seems to be quite well known, but neither Jesus nor his disciples seem to have challenged him on that

And he may as well have had a prominent position, as he was reclining close to Jesus

² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;

△ John 13:1-2

It is almost of Judas was destined to betray Jesus

There is a presumption that Judas might have betrayed Jesus because Jesus was not the

Messiah he (and the others expected him to be)

But there is no evidence in scripture

But whatever it was that motivated Judas was a strong motivation

As it gave ground for Satan to enter Judas

Our motivation

The question we should however ask ourselves: what about our motivation to be followers of Jesus?

If we are disappointed in that would we fall away?

All the disciples in the end betrayed Jesus

Peter by denying him

The others by running away as soon as he was arrested

afraid for their own lives

Expect for the women - who watched when Jesus was crucified

It is perhaps easier to follow Jesus when things are going well

emotionally, physically, economically

If we have everything we need

Although that may lead to the temptation that we do not need him

Do we need Jesus for that then?

Yes, he is the healer, the deliverer, and provides for all that we need

But then there are many Christians who in this life do not seem to get that

And still believe in him and follow him

So do we follow Jesus because of what he has done for us?

Or do we follow Jesus because of what he will do for us?

That without him we won't have eternal life with him

And that we will die and go to hell

Whatever Hell is for you

Is it the absence of God?

Jesus speaks about those who perish

died without eternal life - there is nothing, you are nothing

Is that our motivation?

Or do we follow Jesus because we love him?

Not what we will get, or what he will do for us

But that we do not want to live without him

To me that is the hardest but also the strongest motivation

It is the motivation of Job

That despite that everything that happened to him

He believed in God and his justice and righteousness

And then God answered his complaints not by logic and reason, but by showing who He is

The almighty, omnipresent God

And who is Job (and who are we) that we can judge him?

It is believing in Jesus and following Jesus without expecting anything in return

Just his presence in our lives

And knowing that our love for him may actually be bad for us (in societies eyes)

What is your motivation to believe in Jesus

Possibly a mixture of all these above

We are human after all

But do not let those conditional motivation, when they do not happen

Be a reason for Satan to enter into our hearts

As he will want to use any kink in our armour to take us away of the love of Jesus

Reflect on this