

The Gospel According to John

Seeing and Understanding

Our Need for Christ

John 13:21-38



John 13:21-26

When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me.” The disciples began looking at one another, at a loss to know of which one He was speaking. There was reclining on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. So Simon Peter gestured to him, and said to him, “Tell us who it is of whom He is speaking.” He, leaning back thus on Jesus’ bosom, said to Him, “Lord, who is it?” Jesus then answered, “That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him.”

So when He had dipped the morsel,
He took and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.

John 13:27-30

After the morsel, Satan then entered into him.

Therefore Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly.”

Now no one of those reclining at the table knew for what purpose He had said this to him. For some were supposing, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus was saying to him, “Buy the things we have need of for the feast”; or else, that he should give something to the poor. So after receiving the morsel he went out immediately; and it was night.

John 13:31-35

Therefore when he had gone out, Jesus said,
“Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him;
if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself,
and will glorify Him immediately.

Little children, I am with you a little while longer.
You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say
to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’
A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another,
even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.
By this all men will know that you are My disciples,
if you have love for one another.”

John 13:36-38

Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, where are You going?”

Jesus answered, “Where I go, you cannot follow Me now;
but you will follow later.”

Peter said to Him, “Lord, why can I not follow You right now?
I will lay down my life for You.”

Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for Me?

Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow
until you deny Me three times.”

Main Point

The various people in John's narrative show us truths about ourselves and this world that help us understand our need for Christ for all of life.

Seeing and Understanding

What does Judas help us see
and understand?



How does Judas help us?

He helps us see our
vulnerability to deception.

John 13:21

When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit,
and testified and said,
“Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me.”

John 13:2

During supper, the devil having already put into the heart
of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him...

We don't know why Judas betrayed Jesus,
but we do know he was deceived.

Consider this about Judas...

Luke 9:1-2

And [*Jesus*] called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases.

And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.

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And **[Jesus]** called **the twelve** together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases.
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And [*Jesus*] called the twelve together, **and gave them power
and authority over all the demons
and to heal diseases.**

And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom
of God and to perform healing.

This included Judas!

The disciples were “at a loss to know of which one He was speaking” because it was hard to understand how anyone who had walked so closely with Jesus could betray Him.

But consider even further...

Matthew 7:22-23

“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 miracles?’

And then I will declare to them,
‘I never knew you; *depart from me,
you who practice lawlessness.*’”

How could one experience Christ in this way and yet remain faithless and lawless?

In a word?

Deception

“Do not be deceived”
is a key theme of the Scriptures.

2 Timothy 3:13

But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse,
deceiving and being deceived.

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It is tempting to scoff at Judas
but consider that ***no one sins***
without first being deceived.

How does Judas help us?

He helps us see our vulnerability to deception.

He helps us see the dangerous
reality of Satan.

John 13:2

During supper, ***the devil*** having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him...

John 13:27

After the morsel, ***Satan*** then entered into him.

Therefore Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly.”

**Though Judas was fully responsible,
yet it was Satan who used him.**

One of Satan's greatest deceptions
has been to convince people
that he does not exist, but consider...

1 Peter 5:8

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert.
Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like
a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

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Notice that sobriety is tied to an alert awareness of Satan.

What's the concern?

2 Corinthians 11:3

But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

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Satan is *the* Deceiver, but his deception would not work apart from our vulnerability to it.

How does Judas help us?

He helps us see our vulnerability to deception.

He helps us see the dangerous reality of Satan.

He helps us understand
our need for protection.

John 17:12

“While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and **I guarded them** and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.”

And He continues to protect us and keep us!

1 Peter 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

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for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

It is God who caused us to be born again, and it is God who protects us and keeps us for salvation.

Seeing and Understanding

What does Judas help us see and understand?

What does Peter help us see
and understand?



How does Peter help us?

He helps us see our inability to accurately assess ourselves.

John 13:36-37

Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, where are You going?”

Jesus answered, “Where I go, you cannot follow Me now;
but you will follow later.”

Peter said to Him, “Lord, why can I not follow You right now?
I will lay down my life for You.”

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John 13:36-37 and 38

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Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me?
Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow
until you deny Me three times."

In Peter's self-assessment,
he grossly over-estimated himself.

Self-assessment and examination is
crucial work for Christian living, but
it is impossible work apart from God.

Jeremiah 17:9-10

The heart is more deceitful than all else
and is desperately sick; **who can understand it?**

I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind...

1 Corinthians 4:4

For I am conscious of nothing against myself,
yet I am not by this acquitted;
but the one who examines me is the Lord.

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How does Peter help us?

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He helps us see the ongoing
weakness of our flesh.

John 13:38

“Truly, truly, I say to you, [*Peter*],
a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.”

Matthew 26:74-75

Then [*Peter*] began to curse and swear,
“I do not know the man!” And immediately a rooster crowed.
And Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said,
“Before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.”
And he went out and wept bitterly.

What had Jesus told Peter?

Matthew 26:41

“Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

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Receiving Christ's strength
requires seeing your weakness.

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He helps us understand
our need for a Helper.

John 14:16

“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever.”

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The Holy Spirit is our Helper – apart from Him we are powerless.

Though He is with us and even in us, He intends for us to receive His help through the means He has given us.

What are some of these means?

The regular gatherings of the church

Personal intake of His Word

Prayer and other engagements of the soul

Counsel from His Word

Fellowship of the saints

Seeing and Understanding

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What does Peter help us see and understand?

What does Jesus help us see
and understand?



How does Jesus help us?

He helps us see suffering.

John 13:21

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What was the cause of this trouble?

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What was the cause of this trouble?

The reality of Judas' betrayal deeply troubled Jesus' spirit as He endured and prepared to endure the suffering of sin.

Consider His Suffering

Isaiah 53:3 and 4

He was despised and forsaken of men,
A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

Surely our griefs He Himself bore,
And our sorrows He carried

Consider the depths of suffering
suggested in these passages,
especially in light of Judas' betrayal.

Consider His Suffering In His Life

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The key difference between Jesus' suffering and ours is that His alone was perfectly pure.

His suffering was pure because He understood it perfectly.

His suffering was pure because He responded to it perfectly.

In Him we see how to suffer!

How does Jesus help us?

He helps us see suffering.

He helps us see God's glory.

John 13:31-32

Therefore when he had gone out, Jesus said,
“Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him;
if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself,
and will glorify Him immediately.”

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God is most clearly seen in Christ,
and Christ's cross most clearly
reveals God's glory.

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At Calvary, all of God's attributes
come together in glorious array.

At Calvary we see our desperate
weakness and learn of our need.

How does Jesus help us?

He helps us see suffering.

He helps us see God's glory.

He helps us understand
the source for our strength.

The source for our strength
for all of life is Christ Himself.

As Paul says, “Christ in you
is the hope of glory.”

A glimpse of Christ in us...

John 13:34-35

“A new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another, even as I have loved you,
that you also love one another.

By this all men will know that you are My disciples,
if you have love for one another.”

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This love for one another identifies us as disciples of Christ because *this* love will only flow from Christ in us.

Concluding Questions:

Are you allowing Christ to show you your vulnerability and weaknesses?

Are you learning to take hold of Christ for your strength in all of life.