

Gospel John 13:21-33, 36-38

Reclining at table with his disciples, Jesus was deeply troubled and testified,
“Amen, amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”
The disciples looked at one another, at a loss as to whom he meant.
One of his disciples, the one whom Jesus loved,
was reclining at Jesus’ side.
So Simon Peter nodded to him to find out whom he meant.
He leaned back against Jesus’ chest and said to him,
“Master, who is it?”
Jesus answered,
“It is the one to whom I hand the morsel after I have dipped it.”
So he dipped the morsel and took it and handed it to Judas,
son of Simon the Iscariot.
After Judas took the morsel, Satan entered him.
So Jesus said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.”
Now none of those reclining at table realized why he said this to him.
Some thought that since Judas kept the money bag, Jesus had told him,
“Buy what we need for the feast,”
or to give something to the poor.
So Judas took the morsel and left at once. And it was night.

When he had left, 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 he will glorify him at once.
My children, I will be with you only a little while longer.
You will look for me, and as I told the Jews,
‘Where I go you cannot come,’ so now I say it to you.”

Simon Peter said to him, “Master, where are you going?”
Jesus answered him,
“Where I am going, you cannot follow me now,
though you will follow later.”
Peter said to him,
“Master, why can I not follow you now?
I will lay down my life for you.”
Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for me?
Amen, amen, I say to you, the cock will not crow
before you deny me three times.”

Do we really know what is happening around us? One week our lives are going on as usual. The next our lives are changed drastically. We were busy working hard to build our lives. Younger people were focused on their education and friends and what they would do in the future. Older people were thinking about building up their retirement so they can have more time doing what they love with their friends.

Then things changed. Some of us, hopefully, only temporarily lost our jobs. Some in our communities like Doctors and Nurses are essential, and they are at a higher risk of contracting the virus. Farmers, and Business owners' livelihoods are threatened by this pandemic. Some of you are homeschooling your children which can be very challenging.

The Apostles situation was similar. They had been with Jesus for about three years and saw him work many miracles. They had just come to Jerusalem and seen him welcomed by large crowds. They were probably thinking this was everything they worked for. To see Jesus become the kind of Savior they had imagined.

There is confusion in what they hear from Jesus. Did they think when they came to Jerusalem and Jesus was welcomed by the crowds that he was going to bring peace to the world, and everyone would live in harmony?

What they were going to see happen in the next few days would be drastically different. Jesus tried to tell them where he was going but they could only understand their way, not his way.

Perhaps it's that way with us we only see what we know. Our lives weren't supposed to change. We would work all week then go to Mass on the weekend. Weddings, and birthday parties were supposed to go as planned. We were looking forward to High School and

professional sporting events and getting together with friends and family on weekends. And if our loved ones passed away, we would have viewings, and Funeral Masses.

Our first thoughts are always that we want to be in charge, and in control of the situation. And when we can't, we feel so frustrated and helpless. Peter's response was to want to follow Jesus and be at his side and lay down his life for him.

We know Peter faltered. Peter is human and is afraid just like we might be. He felt threatened by what was going to happen to Jesus and gave into his fear and lost his faith, but he never lost his love for Jesus. We also have those fears and must realize that God never abandons us. He always loves us; his plans are bigger than our plans. It is a fatal mistake to assume that God's goal for our life is material prosperity or popular success in this world. Our life on earth is temporary, our life in Heaven is eternal. So, we must realize **what is happening**, and know God is in control, for he told Peter you will follow me later, and you will be glorified with God.

From Deacon Steve Broering

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