

Scripture: Matthew 26:1-25

Singing: 170:1-3 – 69:1-5 – 40:5-6 – 384:1, 5

A. Though Jesus suffered most of His closest friends, He still loved them!

B. Yet His announcement about the ‘traitor at the table’ is His call to search

It remains necessary for you all to inquire about yourselves

I. Judas’ picture of deceit is a vivid reminder what you and I are capable of

A. All 12 disciples were completely similar before human eyes

B. Yet below the surface Judas Iscariot lived in a different world

1. In his outward religious attachment to Christ, he was a master pretender

2. In his inward world, he cared about one thing: *Judas Iscariot*

C. Judas is a living commentary on Jeremiah 17:9: *The heart is deceitful above all, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

II. The disciples’ question is a clear direction what you and I are to do

A. Eleven disciples respond with an upright prayer: vs. 22

1. Though 11 knew they never entertained such an idea, they prayed: why?

B. Learn from these eleven disciples to *inquire at Jesus’ feet like they did*

1. What they did is not first time in Scripture: Job 34:32; Ps. 19:12-13; 139:23

a. this prayer will make you feel vulnerable

2. How did David and disciples dare to pray such a petition?

a. they knew God knew their heart: Heb. 4:13; Ps. 139:1-3

b. they knew Jesus was not out to shame but ready to forgive: 1 John 1:9

c. they trusted Jesus not to condemn them: John 8:11; John 3:17

Take-aways:

A. Will you spend some time before Jesus with this petition?

B. Keep at this prayer in all your faith-journey: 2 Cor. 13:5

Gathered Gold

To profess to love God while leading an unholy (secret) life
is the worst kind of falsehood. (Augustine).

A man may have the tongue of an angel and the heart of a devil. (J. Flavel)

There is nothing worse than being someone on the outside
that you are not on the inside.

It is the mark of a hypocrite to be a Christian everywhere
except at home in his family or in private. (McCheyne)

A painted-up prostitute is less dangerous than a painted-up hypocrite. (Secker)

Hypocrisy is the loudest lie. (Swinnock)

The hypocrite has a squint eye,
for he looks more for his own glory than God's. (Watson)