

John 13:21-32 After He had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me." His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them He meant. One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to Him. Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask Him which one He means." Leaning back against Jesus, he asked Him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus 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. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly." But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. Since 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. As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night. When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in Him. If God is glorified in Him, God will glorify the Son in Himself, and will glorify Him at once."

Jesus came to die. In the words of C.S. Lewis, the Son of God became a man so that men might become sons of God. He became sin for us so that we could become the righteousness of God. Yet He was fully human at the same time as He was fully God. He experienced emotions just like we do.

Many times in Scripture we see the words, "He had compassion on them..." We know He wept at the death of His friend, Lazarus; we see in the passage I just read from John 13 that He was "troubled in spirit" when He shared with the disciples that one of them would betray Him. Yet nothing could deter Him, for He came to bring glory to the Father by reconciling God and man, to destroy the power of death and the grave and ultimately to restore the Kingdom of God on earth.

In the simple act of handing Himself over to His betrayer, Jesus defused the power of the Adversary to call attention to death and the grave. Jesus declared by this act that the Son of Man was glorified and God was glorified in Him. It was done - an irreversible act of ultimate sacrifice.

He came to die so that we could live. But He still had to wait for the Cross, for that moment when He would become our sin. And the disciples had to wait for that moment when they would lose their best friend.

What must that time of waiting have been like? What happened in the Upper Room after Jesus handed Himself over to the one who betrayed him? Was He angry at Judas? Was Jesus focused on the humiliation and torture He would face? Was He worried about the time He would literally be in hell, separated from His Father?

No, Jesus simply demonstrated love to His disciples. He quieted their doubts and fears. He assured them that He would not leave them alone but would send the Spirit of truth to be with them. He instructed them in how to carry out His work on earth, assuring them that they would not be alone. He prayed for them. He was with them in the waiting.

Maybe you're in a time of waiting, wondering what is coming next and whether you have the strength to survive it. The same words that Jesus spoke to His disciples in the Upper Room apply just as well to you and me: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in Me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me, that you also may be where I am."

Jesus knows our frame, for He made us in His own image and designed us to know Him intimately. He knows we are subject to doubts and fears and anxious thoughts, but He tells us to abide in Him, to stay with Him, to wrap ourselves around Him. This is actually what the word "to wait" means in biblical Hebrew: to entwine yourself with God. To wrap yourself around Him and be safely hidden in the security of His presence. Nothing, absolutely nothing, can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.

I love how *The Message* translation of Romans 8 states this: "I'm absolutely convinced that nothing - nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable - absolutely NOTHING can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us."

He loves you. Oh, how He loves you! He died for you. He has forgiven you and called you to Himself. Receive the abundant life He died to give you.

