

Strongest Relationships

Two Things We Are Learning in This Series...

1. You can impress people at a distance. But you can impact them from up close. And the closer you are to them, the greater and more permanent the impact.
2. Although we learn in large groups, the changes that we would like to make in our lives are usually made because of relationships.

The Scriptures

"I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill the scripture: 'He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.'" ¹⁹*"I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He. "* ²⁰*I tell you the truth, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."* ²¹*After He had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me."* ²²*His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them He meant. "* ²³*One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to Him. "* ²⁴*Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask Him which one He means."* ²⁵*Leaning back against Jesus, he asked Him, "Lord, who is it?"* ²⁶*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 Iscariot, son of Simon. "* ²⁷*As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. "What you are about to do, do quickly,"* ²⁸*Jesus told him, "but no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. "* ²⁹*Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the Feast, or to give something to the poor. "* ³⁰*As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night."* - John 13:18-30

The Public Affirmation

Jesus had just told the disciples that they could be happy if they would serve others. But there is one exception among them.

"Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. " ¹⁸*"I am not referring to all of you..."* - John 13:17,18

1. Jesus wanted the disciples to know that He had not made a mistake in choosing the Twelve.

"I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen." - John 13:18
"Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray Him." - John 6:64

- *God didn't make Judas evil, but He used the evil in Judas' heart.*
- *Judas was the epitome of evil.*
- *The work of Judas was foretold in the Scriptures.* (v. 18)

2. Jesus also announced this to the disciples so that they would understand that He was the subject of prophecy.

"I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He." - John 13:19

3. Jesus also wanted the disciples to know that their authority had not been destroyed because of one of them who had failed.

"I tell you the truth, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me." - John 13:20

The Painful Announcement

Jesus was troubled over one who didn't believe and announced to all the disciples that one would betray Him.

The disciples had no idea as to the identity of the betrayer.

"His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them He meant." - John 13:22

At Peter's request, John asked Jesus who the betrayer was. Jesus gave a clear signal, but no one seemed to catch it.

The Private Appeal

Jesus signaled Judas that He knew what was in his heart.

When Judas took the bread, *"Satan entered into him."* He could have repented at that moment, but he did not.

"The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus." - John 13:2

"As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. "What you are about to do, do quickly," ²⁶*Jesus told him..."* - John 13:27

Jesus asked Judas to act quickly and although everyone heard what was said, no one understood the meaning.

The disciples had been totally fooled by a fraud in their midst. They thought Jesus wanted Judas to get supplies.

Or they thought Jesus wanted Judas to give to the poor.

Judas knew exactly what Jesus meant, and he immediately left the room — and it was night!

The Lessons

1. The strongest relationships are forged in small groups.
2. Even in what seems the closest of relationships, there are those who can deceive us.
3. Just because you can be deceived by someone, don't withhold yourself from others.
4. My "aha" today is...

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