



The Gospel According to Luke

Wk. 103 "Sovereignty in the Midst of Betrayal"

By Pastor Jody May

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The Plot to Kill Jesus

22 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. ² And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death, for they feared the people.

Judas to Betray Jesus

³ Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. ⁴ He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. ⁵ And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. ⁶ So he consented and sought an opportunity to **betray** him to them in the absence of a crowd.

Intro.

One of the most painful experiences anyone can ever go through is in the act of Betrayal (v.6). Betrayal is more than just mere dishonesty; it is the stab in the back by someone you trusted. It comes with the pain of feeling foolish about your decision to trust a person that in the end did not feel the same way about you as you did about them. It also can come with some consequences that can be nasty, long-lived, and embarrassing.

Betrayal can be a simple slip of the tongue too. I wonder how many of us in this room have said something about someone they knew, only later to find out that was something not to be shared. In a moment you were branded as a betrayer.

In the political world a person that commits betrayal we call that act **treason**. In some cases, the act of treason brings with it the most severe punishment, death.

Some of us in this room have been through the intense feeling of betrayal by a spouse. Someone that knew you, had seen all of you, at your best and your worst



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and had promised to stay with you until *death do you part*. The vows turned out to be false words, they were lies, and those vows were used to get you to take down your defenses so they could steel life from you. Some of you were children wrapped up in those acts of betrayal. You had a parent that you thought would tough it out for you and in the end that parent showed they cared more about themselves than you.

Some of us, if not all of us in here, old enough to care, have felt a little betrayed by a government that was elected to serve the people not the other way around. It doesn't matter what side of the political aisle you are on, it seems that no matter how much you care, how much you vote, how much you pray, your elected officials care more about what they get out of their service than how well they are serving you.

Any of all those scenarios doesn't even come close to the type of betrayal that Jesus met at the hands of Judas Iscariot, a man known in the Bible this way:

Luke 6:16 ESV

And Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

Mark 3:19 ESV

And Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

John 12:4-6

(Judas) - "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.

Acts 1:16-18

"Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.



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At first, our passage today seems like a **dismal plot line**. Jesus is working non-stop up to His death. His enemies struck an agreement with one of His own disciples. He’s betrayed Jesus and sold Him for 30 shekels of silver; one to two months of a modern-day salary. What’s more, you know how this turns out. You know the betrayal happened; it was sealed with a kiss. To the world, Jesus has been duped, He has been defeated, but to the church, to the elect, the remnant, we should know better.

Let me take you to another place in the scripture another angle of this story so we can pick up on what is happening behind the scenes of this tragic event.

John 11:45-53 ESV

The Plot to Kill Jesus

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶ but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷ So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.” ⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰ Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.” ⁵¹ He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵² and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³ So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

This was the scene that Judas walked in on. They were men hungry for Jesus’ death for they were afraid of losing their positions of power accompanied with facing a national punishment. In the end you should know shortly after Jesus death the Romans not only removed Pilate but the High Priests as well.

Here’s what I want us to see about this act of betrayal today. The plan to kill Jesus was not of the scribes, not of the priests, not of the Jews, and not even of the



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Romans. From the words of Caiaphas, the High Priest, he **prophesied; to tell those around him the secret future works of God.** That Jesus would die (you read about all of that in Isaiah theses last two weeks) to bring Salvation to all the children of God, Christians - Jews and Gentiles alike (Ez. 36:24-31) so they would not perish but Live! **The plan to offer Jesus as a sacrifice was not a plan contrived by man but was created by God in eternity past to create true worshippers with living spiritual hearts!**

God signaled/pointed to this plan, hinted at it, to us in the garden by killing the first animals to cover our sins in Genesis 3. He provided again for Abraham so he would not have to offer his own son Isaac. He instituted a system of animal sacrifice, that He provided to His people, which would **teach them about the seriousness** of sin and the **need for a permanent solution.**

In case more proof is needed that this was not the plan of man but of God, Jesus had already by this point in John 11 predicted His death, according to what He was seeing in scripture: Luke 9:18-44 (twice); Mark 8:31-33; Mat. 16:21-23. It also says in scripture in John 12:23 and Luke 22:53 **Jesus knew the exact hour of His death; this was no surprise.** He had complete control over His life, His arrest, and even up to the moment of His death. **(Trinity)** It was **God the HS** that caused this man, Caiaphas, to prophesy for Him. It was **The Father's** choice, plan, and timing that would ensure that this sacrifice would come on Passover 33AD to make Jesus the final lamb of Passover. Lastly, it was **The Son** that consented and volunteered for this duty according to Philipians 8.

The Betrayal of the Son of Man, the Son of God, the Messiah of Israel, the Christ of all the elect **was orchestrated by the sovereignty of God and carried out by the evil intent of man.** God never sinned in His act but used this highest act of treason against His Kingdom so that He might save some and bring an eternal glory to His name.

That means if God can take the lowest of acts of all human existence, and we discovered that He allowed it to happen so that the ULTIMATE good would come out of it, **what do you think the implications are for your life?!**



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Could it be that your life has worked out the way it was supposed to because **God willed it** so that the **best good** could come out of it, for His Kingdom sake?

Romans 8:28-29 ESV

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for **good**, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Is the God in your mind **strong enough** to do that? If He isn't you will be driven mad with doubt, despair, and angst but if He is then you will thrive with Hope, Joy, and Peace.

In the words of **Charles Spurgeon**, *“The Sovereignty of God is the pillow upon which the Christian rests their head.”*

I want to spend the next few minutes and comb back through these verses in Luke and talk about the implications of God's Sovereignty in all of life even in the midst of this ultimate betrayal. By helping us understand God's Sovereignty behind all things, my prayer for us, is that **we can stop fretting about everything that messes with our plans of a comfortable existence and we can start looking at even disheartening events with anticipation of God doing wonderful things.**

1. A Sovereign God Never Rests so you can Live for Him at Your Best.

³⁷ And every day he was teaching in the temple, but at night he went out and lodged on the mount called Olivet. ³⁸ And early in the morning all the people came to him in the temple to hear him.

In John 11, after what I read to you earlier, it makes it clear that Jesus was very aware of the plot to kill Him. So, while here in Jerusalem one speculates as to why does He spend the night out in the woods? The word **lodged** there in the text is the equivalent to **camping** in the English language. Jesus spent His last



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week camping in the hillsides around Jerusalem with all the other pilgrims that had showed up for Passover.

Even in Jesus' last week, He didn't risk going to His home base of operations. He didn't spend time in Mary, Martha's, and Lazarus' home. He didn't risk the temple guards breaking in and taking Him at night, nor did he risk His friends' lives. He didn't risk the comfort and quiet of a home base but spent His time in the wilderness surrounded by people. He was going out of this world as He came in, with **nowhere to lay his head**, surrounded by the outdoors where the animals roam.

Not only that but our Lord got up before everyone else, filled with the need to be at the temple before things got busy in the day, especially in the High Holiday season. It says that people **went early looking for Him at the temple**. He knew people would come looking for Him so most likely Jesus spends just a few hours of rest so He could get in the majority of time proclaiming the glories of the Kingdom, in the place that would have the most people.

Here we see a sovereign God, fully aware of what would happen, fully in control of what would happen, orchestrating all those events bringing Him to Calvary. Instead of taking His last days of humanity to vacation before this ultimate betrayal by Judas and experiencing the horrors of a Roman Cross, our Lord literally **works Himself to death**.

What at first glance might seem as a waste of time for people that will betray Jesus a couple of days later God sees it as **some of His most important work!** You can't forget that it was during these days He warned the people of the destruction of the temple, the fall of Jerusalem, and the glorious signs of His return. You can't forget that Jesus' literally saved thousands of Christians from a Roman military/sadistic death by **Him running to His**. You can't forget that Jesus, sets up the future of the church with His high priestly prayers in John 17 and institutes the Ordinance of Lord's Supper to unite Christians (church). So much important work took place that Passion Week, that we cannot, **no we dare not**, read this passage so fast to **think it was all a waste!**



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If Jesus had not taken this week in Jerusalem, camping/working late nights/teaching non-stop: we would most likely not be here. In the sovereignty of God even though hard things have happened and are coming, our **God never rests so we can have the Best chance for Salvation/Sanctification/Spiritual Survival!**

This was Jesus' doing the job of the High Priest. Instead of making a deal with the devil, as Caiaphas did, (which points back to the wilderness and His temptations). Jesus puts Himself between His people and the world. The writer of Hebrews tells us in this way:

Hebrews 4:14-16 ESV

¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 7:23-25 ESV

²³ The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, ²⁴ but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. ²⁵ Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Jesus is a never tiring, always living, High priest, our ultimate intercessor, for us with God the Father so that for His people we will never again fall out of the loving care of our God. **Jesus never rests so we can have our Best, eternal life right now!**

Today, what is it that you are facing that has got you so worried that you are losing sleep; COVID, Govt., Money, Your Kids, Your Job, Your Home, Your personal freedoms, Socialism, Communism, Secularism? Family, let me remind us all in here we have a **High Priest that stays awake at night so you can sleep**, and He intercedes so you can know your sins are forgiven, and He only allows the Devil



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enough leash so you are not destroyed, but instead you are made more in His image (Rom.8:28-29). Jesus is continuing the work of the Father, shaming the world and the devil by using Satan’s evil schemes to save you and make you look more like Him!

He never rests so you can be developed into your best!

2. A Sovereign God Establishes the Plans not the Will nor Hands of Man.

The Plot to Kill Jesus

22 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover.
2 And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death, for they feared the people.

We see that the fear of the people, losing favor of them, losing the position of authority, has caused the leaders of the Jews to make a covenant of death with Judas as Satan’s Representative. **Fear of man is no joke!** When you tie in your identity to what people think about you, what they do for you, how they respond to you, it will make you say some crazy things (**like Amen and Awoman**). It is so good to know that God will even work through paralyzing fear to ensure His plans are carried out. Why, because even when people get crazy from their desire to be accepted, God is still on the throne and is in charge of all things.

Psalm 27:28 ESV

For kingship belongs to the LORD,
and He rules over the nations.

Psalm 103:19 ESV

The Lord has established His throne in the heavens,
and His Kingdom rules over all.

God never just turns over the reins of leadership to the enemy. He will use the scheming/planning of man to accomplish His will, every time! One of the things we have got to remember is that if we have a sovereign God then that means we are



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not left up to the whims of man, to evil scheming, for even when the schemes come to fruition, as in this betrayal, **it is all done with intent by God to unite all things in Christ (Eph. 1:10).**

Let me just jump right to the end of the Bible and let me show you the futility in which wickedness works in this world while it still has time.

Revelation 13:8 ESV

and all who dwell on earth will worship it (beast/antichrist), **everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.**

We discover that the plan for Jesus as the Lamb that would be slain for the Elect, written in the book of life, that's the book that records the names of the saints, the Christians, the True Church. AND we learn that this book is not written in everyday as the number of Christ followers grow but that book was done **before the Creation of the World/Universe**. The plan to redeem the world was developed before the world began, as an eternal decree, by God between the members of the Trinity.

Many of us right now are so wound up tight because we just spent a year in limbo: What if I get sick, what if I lose my things because I can't work, what if the government changes, what if my kid stays home one more day!? And we have to be careful, **for right now in our soul we are looking for a savior**, someone to show up on the scene and make things right. The Bible calls that the antichrist, you might want to be careful before you put your trust in man.

Proverbs 29:26 ESV

**Many seek a face of a ruler, but it is
From the Lord that a man gets justice.**

A Sovereign God is the only one that establishes plans, and not just some but all the plans, for He is King over all things (1 Tim. 6:15)! He has the responsibility to ensure it will all work out good in the end for history bears His name on it. Because a Sovereign God establishes all plans you can rest and be at your best...



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3. A Sovereign God Controls the Players even those who are the Biggest Haters.

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³Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. ⁴He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. ⁵And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. ⁶So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd.

Let's take our last 5 minutes here and build this case just a little more. In case you are not buying it, and you still think Jesus didn't see Judas, his earthly hater coming for Him, in case you think He was outsmarted by Satan, His biggest hater, Let me share with you a prophecy about that:

Psalm 41

⁸They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him;
he will not rise again from where he lies.”
⁹ Even my close friend in whom I trusted,
who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.
¹⁰ But you, O LORD, be gracious to me,
and raise me up, that I may repay them!

Jesus not only knew He was going to be betrayed but He knew who would do it. Jesus had been teaching, “*You can't serve God and Money*”, and who had the problem with money in the group? All the disciples knew it was Judas. On the night of the betrayal, He directed Judas to go and do it quickly. Jesus uses the passion of Judas for money, Jesus uses the evil intent of the devil in Judas since the fall, to perform the preordained will of God.

And **by no means does this excuse Judas' sin!** All were born into iniquity and all are destined to die if not for the mercy of God, it is a fair judgment. Giving someone mercy is not a right you are born with, **the only right you and I are born with is to die eternally**, and the only thing God has to do is to ensure that justice will be delivered to His creation.



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Romans 9:14-18 ESV

¹⁴ What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God’s part? By no means! ¹⁵ For He says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” ¹⁶ So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. ¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” ¹⁸ So then He has mercy on whomever He wills, and He hardens whomever He wills.

Family, the truth of the matter is this, **we are all betrayers of our King...** We all have chosen to worship something else other than Him, we all have sold our birthright for temporary satisfaction like Esau, we all have sought earthly powers to deliver us to give us what we want like the OT Israelites. The only thing God must do for us is deliver JUSTICE or else He is not a good God.

The only way to escape the payment for our sins is if you have confessed your need for Him, you have accepted God’s gift of Jesus, the sacrificial lamb, to absorb God’s wrath for you. And if you call yourself a Christian you should be producing Spiritual Fruit of some kind showing you have discovered your first love, GOD!

Are you absorbed in your anxieties today or are you at rest under the reign of your sovereign ruler, King Jesus?

Are you ok being caught up in the plans of man because you know God is control of all things working them to the good of those He has called?

Do you find yourself thanking God for Mercy because you realized you have betrayed the Lord just like Judas?

If you are answering “no” to these questions I implore you call on the name of Jesus to be saved right now in your heart, put your life in His plans, accept His will for your soul, and be saved!



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PRAYER

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father, that orchestrated the plan to save His creation, by glorifying His name through the actions of His only begotten Son, Jesus.

Go in the name of the Son, that defeated Satan, the World and death, by getting them to do His will for He is the King.

Go in the name and the power of the HS, that gets you to see your betrayal, your need of Him, and propels your desire to share the good news with others.