

GREG'S NOTES

A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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WHY DOES GOD ALLOW EVIL?

John 13

If God is so good and loving why does He allow evil? We don't always know the answers as to why things happen. But here's what we know: God is good and He loves us. He didn't create evil, but He gave us a free will to make choices and can bring good despite the bad. The man that we are going to look at committed the worst crime imaginable—he betrayed and sold out Jesus and had a hand in the cold-blooded murder of the very Son of God. I'm talking about Judas Iscariot. He betrayed Christ but he in fact helped to fulfill the ministry of Jesus, as we will discover.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

- 1. Jesus knew that His hour had come to leave this world and return to His Father.** Jesus loved His disciples during His ministry on earth. Now He loves them to the very end. With Calvary closing in and all of the pressure it brought, here is a touching picture of Christ. He is down on His hands and knees, washing the feet of the disciples, loving them to the end.
- 2. Jesus was deeply troubled because of what Judas was about to do.** In verse 21 of John 13 we see Jesus deeply troubled, as He exclaims, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me!" (NLT). He wasn't troubled for Himself. He was troubled over the soul of the one who was about to betray Him. The disciples did not know Judas was the man because Christ had not identified him. But Jesus knew. It was not obvious to the other disciples, who asked, "Could it be me?" No one thought of Judas.
- 3. Jesus knew what Judas would do but still offered him love.** Jesus would've forgiven Judas Iscariot if he had repented right there on the spot. But that is not what Judas was about to do. Judas was now past the point of no return. Verse 27 says when he ate the bread Satan entered him. Jesus was basically saying, "You know what you're about to do and I still love you. And it breaks My heart you don't have to do it." Judas had a free will he could've exercised. He could have just as easily turned away. Christ would've forgiven him up to the last moment. But Judas chose evil.
- 4. Judas was exposed to all the miracles and teachings of the perfect example of Christ.** It's really incomprehensible that a man with such opportunity could so squander it. Judas Iscariot spent every waking hour walking and talking with God incarnate. What a privilege that was. Jesus was the perfect example. Yet not only did Judas not believe but he turned against Christ, selling Him out for 30 pieces of silver. He was one of the original 12. But instead of turning to God, he became filled with anger and jealousy and bitterness. He didn't want Jesus.

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RELEVANT REMINDERS

- Judas was handpicked and loved by Jesus but he made a horrible choice.
- Jesus offered Judas one last chance to repent when he came to the Garden of Gethsemane with the temple guard, but Judas still rejected Jesus.
- If a person can habitually commit sin without any sense of conviction or remorse, that's a clear indicator that they don't know God.

APPLICABLE ACTIONS

In John chapter 13 we not only see Jesus betrayed by Judas, but we also see Him denied by Simon Peter—not once, but three times. The difference is that Peter came to his senses. He wept and was restored by Jesus. Judas never repented and he was separated from Jesus.

Where will your guilt drive you? Away from Jesus or to Him? I would suggest you run into the open arms of the Lord, who will forgive you no matter what you've done. Yes it's true that what came as a result of Judas' choice is perhaps the worst act of sinfulness in human history: the torture and the murder of Jesus. Yet from it came the greatest good, because Jesus died for the sin of the world. More specifically He died for your sin and He died for mine because He didn't stay on the cross. He rose again from the dead. Death died when Christ rose. And that's the good news for all of us.