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We will pick up where we left off last week. If you remember Jesus just washed the disciple's feet and He began to teach.

***John 13:21-30***

When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me." The disciples began looking at one another, at a loss to know of which one He was speaking. There was reclining on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. So Simon Peter gestured to him, and said to him, "Tell us who it is of whom He is speaking." He, leaning back thus on Jesus' bosom, said to Him, "Lord, who is it?"

Jesus then answered, "That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him." So when He had dipped the morsel, He took and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." Now no one of those reclining at the table knew for what purpose He had said this to him. For some were supposing, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus was saying to him, "Buy the things we have need of for the feast"; or else, that he should give something to the poor. So after receiving the morsel he went out immediately; and it was night.

Jesus had just quoted from *Psalms 41* reciting a prophecy which says that one of the Messiah's best friends would betray Him. Nevertheless, the disciples still had no clue what He was talking about. Jesus then became visibly agitated and everyone could read the shift in His body language. This time He made it more

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than abundantly clear: “one of you will betray me.” Woe, what’s that—one of us? Everyone was a bit taken back by that comment and Peter motions to the disciple that Jesus loved (most people assume that this is John) and asks him to find out who Jesus is talking about. Then, instead of just saying it’s Judas and pointing the finger, it seems that Jesus wanted the disciples to understand that prophecy was being fulfilled in their midst. So He says: "That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him." But even after He does this, and gives the piece of bread to Judas, the disciples still did not comprehend what was happening. They did not like what they heard but at the same time they did not really understand what was going on. Even when they saw Judas get up and leave they still could not imagine for a moment that one of the inner-circle could do something so vile.

This week I was trying to picture the scene in this room with the leftover food and wine on the table and everyone relaxing and still kind of taken back by the fact that Jesus had just washed their feet. In the picture I formed in my mind, my attention kept being drawn to Jesus and I could see Him suddenly become so agitated looking all intense and impatient. This intrigued me. So I look up the verb in the Greek and found that it is in the passive tense, which means that this great anguish that Jesus felt suddenly washed over Him; it just rose up and overwhelmed Him.

Now, I am just speculating, but I believe that Jesus’ visible change in attitude and body language had everything to do with the fact that He knew Satan himself was coming into the midst of their little meeting. It was not as if He had anything to fear, but I am sure He was annoyed that the one He loved was within moments going to be “possessed” by the devil and completely under his insidious control. Jesus loved Judas, had just washed his feet, and it must have broken His heart to look down the path of darkness and destruction that Judas would soon be walking.

***John 10:10***

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy

Remember this verse? This is Judas' immediate and eternal destiny. Judas listened to the lies of the devil and refused to believe that Jesus was the Christ. He had all the proof he could ever want; but, as a result of his unbelief, the enemy literally stole his life right out from under him. Soon the enemy will convince Judas to commit suicide and ensure that he is forever and all time destroyed. This is not only disturbing but it is horrible. It's no wonder Jesus was agitated.

Now I want us to notice something that is very interesting and I don't want us to miss it for it speaks to the absolute sovereignty of God and the truth that Satan is not a yang to Jesus' ying. Rather, Satan is merely a tool under total submission to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit; a tool to effect God's will whenever God so desires to use him. And keep in mind, Satan is not divine and never will be; thus, he has no power and authority except for what has been given to him by God.

So Judas eats the morsel of bread and suddenly Satan comes and literally enters into his body. What we are to understand from this passage is that right at that moment in time Judas was no longer in control; he was under total domination of the devil. He is what we would generically call "possessed." Therefore Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." But since Judas was controlled by the devil, the "him" Jesus was referring to was Satan. In other words, Jesus commands Satan to complete this work of betrayal in and through Judas, and Satan obeys.

It is important that we always keep a proper perspective of who God is and who the enemy is. Too often our view of the devil is so large and our view of God is so

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small. As a result, we fear the enemy and have little confidence in the power of God which dwells within us. Yes, the devil is the prince of this earth and the Lord has given him great latitude to do his work, but he is just a prince. Jesus is still the King. **John 13:3** says that the Father has given all things into Jesus' hands—that means all things seen and unseen; all has been submitted to the Son. Therefore, I believe that we need to realize that Jesus has always been in control and always is in control all the time; and, therefore, all things happen just as He decided long ago (**Ephesians 1:11**).

We must also remember that the enemy and all his minions are just beings that like you and I were created by the Son (**Colossians 1:16**); thus, they are not equal or even comparable to the living God. Further, we are children of God and according to **Ephesians 6:10-20**, we have the power to extinguish all the attempts by the enemy to come against us. And, guess what? One day we will actually judge these fallen angels (**1 Corinthians 6:3**). So it would serve us well to remember who we are and to whom we belong, for our God is great and nothing compares to Him.

For those of you who want to dig in and do a little personal Bible study on this topic, in **Job 1-2** we see that Satan can only do to Job's life what God allows him to do—nothing more. In fact, he has to ask permission to even come against Job. In **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 16:14, 18:10, and 19:9** we see that the tormenting spirits which inflicted Saul were released at the Lord's command. In **2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 24:1** and **1 Chronicles 21:1** we see that Satan was the instrument through which God brought judgment on Israel. In **1<sup>st</sup> Kings 22:19-23** the Lord sent lying spirits to deceive King Ahab. And in **Luke 22:31** we find that Satan had to seek the Father's permission to come against Peter before he could tempt Peter to deny Christ. The

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point should be clear: God is God and He rules all things and even the scary devil and his minions are always submitted to His will.

Now getting back to the text, what I find so interesting, and a bit unnerving, is the way a person can be controlled by not just evil spirits but Satan himself—the leader of the evil hordes. We talked a bit about this back in *Chapter 8* where Jesus said that those who refused to believe him were actually children of the devil in the same way that true believers are children of God. Please understand; if a person is not a Christian, especially if they have rejected the gospel and hardened their heart toward God, the enemy has easy access, through his lies, to the mind and at times even the body of that person. This means that people everywhere can be instruments through which the enemy works. Now that's a freaky thought. It reminds me of the Matrix and how the agents of the system were able to enter into anyone at any time in order to do their work.

This is all part of the devil's trickery and the deceit which he uses to try and mess up the lives of believers. You see we expect to encounter some scary spirit late at night in the darkness with yellow eyes and long fangs; yet, the reality is that we could be having encounters with evil spirits all throughout our day through the people that we encounter who are mere tools and are likely, unbeknownst to them, submitted to the lies and purposes of the enemy. Through these people we are exposed to all manner of lies and rotten thinking that just does not align itself up with the truth. This is merely the devil's clever attempt to attract us to those lies and thereby weaken our faith.

I believe that we need to be absolutely aware of this play by the enemy. Remember, he hates us and wants to destroy the work of God in our lives. So he will do everything he can, including disguising himself as an angel of light and his workers as servants of righteousness (*2 Corinthians 11:14*), in order to trick us and

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deceive us into listening to his voice and entertaining some manner of wrong belief or unbelief.

I should also make note of something else that is probably very controversial but I am going to put it out there anyway. In fact, I would be remiss to not confront this issue head-on. So I am just going to say it. A believer who does not live according to their New Creation, but is still beholden to his/her old sinful nature, is absolutely open and vulnerable to the lies and deception of the enemy. And, if they listen too long, they will find that they also become tools and will, unbeknownst to them, be doing the very things the enemy wants them to do. They will in effect fall under his control. Why? Because *Romans 8:7* tells us that, like Satan, our old sinful nature is *always* hostile to God (he is an enemy of God just like the devil). Further, *Galatians 5:17* says that our old sinful nature loves to do evil, which is just opposite from what the Holy Spirit wants. With such a similar nature to the devil, you can understand how easy it is for even a believer to fall under his rule and authority.

We see a picture of this in *Acts 5:1-11* with the story of Ananias and Sapphira. This is a tragic story and very unique in that God was ushering in a new era in history—the birth of the church. In so doing, He did not want believers to ever forget that even though He is a God of mercy and grace, He is also a holy God. But aside from this point, I want us to see both how real and how possible it is for a believer to move according to the schemes and plans of the enemy.

### ***Acts 5:1-11***

But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and

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bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? "While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it. The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.

Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter responded to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?" And she said, "Yes, that was the price." Then Peter said to her, "Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out as well." And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things.

Ananias and Sapphira conspired together to deceive their little community of believers. I believe that they wanted everyone to believe they were "good" Christians doing the "good" Christian thing. They wanted to be part of the group and not come across as if they were not as "godly" as everyone else. But unlike those who were moved by the Holy Spirit to sell their possessions and give the money to the church, they were moved by insecurity and fear. They were tempted by the enemy and due to the weakness of their faith they let his voice dominate

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their thoughts and his lies fill their hearts; and, before you know it, they were lying to the Holy Spirit.

The point I want to make is that Satan was in the middle of this whole fiasco. He successfully persuaded two believers to listen to his lies and to do his work. This tells us that the devil knows how to get into the minds of true believers and incite rebellion through the old sinful nature. And when he does this, like Ananias and Sapphira, we end up doing all manner of religious deeds; yet, our hearts are far from God. Thus, we must always be aware and we must never think that opening ourselves up to our flesh is ever a safe proposition. It is always fraught with huge danger. Please don't be so arrogant to think that you are immune or above the devil's influence. We see that Judas, an unbeliever, was led to betray Jesus and soon we will see that Peter, a believer was led to deny Jesus 3 times.

I know the thought of being used by the enemy is unnerving, but it is real. Over and over, even within the church, we see people fight against the work of God because it does not fit their idea of what Christianity should be. In fact, you don't have to look very hard to see that, like Ananias and Sapphira, believers are obsessed with serving their own interests while cloaking the true nature of their desires under a banner of "Christian" service and obedience. In fact, it is tragic but few Christians live to do only what the Father wants them to do, live to say only what the Father wants them to say, and to go only where the Father wants them to go. They want God to fit into their lives: you know, to bless them and take care of them, and so on, and they have little concept of what it means to be a vessel through which God wants to live and through which God wants to work His will. As a result, the enemy has way too much latitude to work his purposes in and amongst true believers.



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Keep in mind that the exhortation in *Ephesians 6* to be cloaked with the armor of God is given to believers and not unbelievers. In other words, absent our absolute dependence upon the Lord for all things, we are vulnerable—we are! But when we are covered in His armor we are not only safe, we are able to effectively rebuff the attacks of the enemy. Please understand that this is no game; this is not something we can take lightly. We have to understand that we are a part of a real war with real victories and real casualties; thus, we must learn that we can never give the enemy opportunity in our lives. Paul says it this way:

***Romans 13:14***

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

By the way, I like how John cleverly circles back around to one of the key themes which he has woven throughout this gospel and that is the notion of evil and darkness contrasted with God and the light. In *verse 30* John makes the point that after receiving the morsel of bread Judas went out into the night. He chose the path of darkness and now he will walk that path of destruction until the end. This whole thing is so sad especially given the fact that for the past 3-years Judas actually walked with the One who is the light of the world.

***John 13:31-35***

Therefore when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him; if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify

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Him in Himself, and will glorify Him immediately." Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

This first part of this statement sounds a little confusing but basically it is a statement of what has always been and what is. Jesus states that not only has He always been glorified but the Father has always been glorified in the Son in the same way that the Son is always glorified in the Father. Further, He states that the Father will again glorify the Son; in other words, Jesus will soon, within hours, shed the flesh of His humanity and once again be in His eternal glorified state. We will get a glimpse of this after His resurrection in His various appearances before He ascended into heaven.

Now, with regard to the second part of this statement, when He said a little while longer, He meant it. He had maybe 17-18 hours left before He was going to be killed. But I think this statement about their looking for Him was a reference to the fact that in His physical body He would resurrect and go back to heaven—a place they could not yet come. And since He will be physically resurrected, no one will be able to find Him. They will run to the tomb to seek the Lord and He won't be there. The religious leaders will search for His body, as a way to prove that He did not rise from the dead, but they will also find nothing. The body of Jesus will have been changed from the flesh of humanity into another substance that is physical, spiritual and also eternal. This is the same thing that is going to happen to us as well. Paul explains this concept in 1 Corinthians 15.

*1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-44, 48-53*

But someone may ask, "How will the dead be raised? What kind of bodies will they have?" What a foolish question! When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn't grow into a plant unless it dies first. And what you put in the ground is not the plant that will grow, but only a bare seed of wheat or whatever you are planting. Then God gives it the new body he wants it to have...

It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies...

Earthly people are like the earthly man, and heavenly people are like the heavenly man. Just as we are now like the earthly man, we will someday be like the heavenly man. What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever.

But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

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That is pretty cool. When we get to heaven we are not going to be just some floating apparition in the sky, but we will have substance—an eternal and supernatural body. We have no idea what it is going to be like, but **1 John 3:2** says that we will be like Jesus because we will see Him just as He really is. It is an amazing thing to think about; we will be like Him. Wow, praise God!

### ***John 13:34-35***

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another." By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Jesus then gives them a new commandment to love one another. But I want you to note that in the Greek the word translated “new” does not mean new as in time but in substance. In other words, this was not something that was not known before; they always knew that they were commanded to love each other. But this concept was fresh or “new” in that Jesus gave substance to the “what,” the “how” and the “why.” Last week we studied the “what” and the “why” and now we will look at the “how.”

In **Matthew 22:37-39** Jesus said: “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment.” Jesus was quoting from **Deuteronomy 6:5**. “The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” Jesus was quoting from **Leviticus 19:18**. So again the idea of loving one another was not new. But Jesus redefines the concept entirely. In those passages in Deuteronomy and Leviticus, the Hebrew word used for love would be equivalent to the Greek word “Phileo” or the kind of

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tender affection that is shared amongst all of humanity. This would be defined by the way that a husband loves his wife or a mother loves her children.

But Jesus now commands the disciples to Agape one another – to love with the love that can only come from God; the kind of love by which Jesus loved them. This was something entirely new and radical for this is not something that they had the power, in and of themselves, to do. This kind of love belongs exclusively to God.

Thus, in giving this command, Jesus was in essence saying be filled with me, surrender everything to me, let me be the Lord of your life, and let me so completely indwell you such that my love can fill you completely and overflow to others. Notice that this command has no limitation in terms of time or duration. Hence, this is to be how we are in relationship with each other all the time. If that is the case, then the only way to obey the Lord is to give no opportunity for the flesh (which is to give no opportunity for the devil to speak lies into your being). Rather, we are to live in total dependence upon Jesus all the time for everything. So the command to Agape one another is really a command to abide in Him. The two concepts are synonymous.

This is why this commandment is new. On our own we cannot Agape each other; it is impossible! Only He is able to Agape others through us. And this is the reason that all men will know that we belong to Jesus when we love in this way because they will see Jesus in action as He lives in and through our lives. This is marvelous and a beautiful picture which further explains *John 13:20*, which we covered last week, which says those who welcome us welcome Jesus.

***John 13:36-38***

Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered, "Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later." Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You." Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.

Peter still does not understand. It's as if he is just watching things spin around him and he really can't make heads or tails out of anything. Jesus keeps talking in parables and everything is just so different and difficult to understand. I feel for the guy; I am sure I would have been the same way. Remember, at this point in time He did not have the Holy Spirit living in Him to give him wisdom and understanding.

Jesus speaks to Peter in a typical layered fashion. Sure Peter may not be walking down the path of brutal execution along with Jesus, but soon enough he will follow. Historically, we really don't know how Peter dies but church tradition states that he was crucified upside down, by the Romans, on an x-shaped cross. There are, however, others who believe Peter died of old age. But we cannot be sure. But the inference that Jesus makes is that although Peter is not ready now, there will be a time when he has to walk down the same path that Jesus will soon walk.

Next with all his good heart and intention, Peter declares his love for Jesus and says that he is ready to die right alongside Jesus. Peter really thinks that he is ready to walk the same path of sacrifice. But there is one problem' the kind of love that would be required for Peter to overcome his natural instinct for survival is Agape

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love—something He does not yet have. *John 15:13* says: “Greater love (Agape) has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.” One day in the very near future Peter will be filled with the Spirit of God and indwelt with God’s Agape love, but for now, Peter only has “Phileo” and that is simply not enough to get the job done. In fact, the reality is just the opposite. When confronted with a choice to live or die, Peter will not just choose to live but in so doing he will choose to deny Christ three times. “Phileo” is well intentioned but is often too weak when confronted with the power of our old sinful nature that is self-seeking through and through.

That is heavy and I am sure it was hard for Peter’s pride to swallow (especially since he blurted out this great rah, rah speech in front of everyone). However, I don’t think Jesus tone in communicating this to Peter was in anyway negative or critical, but He was dealing with reality and speaking plainly so that Peter could understand that now he is simply not able, but one day Jesus will enable him and it will be glorious. Jesus also did not want Peter to stand in his religious and self-righteous pride giving an opportunity for the flesh, which would, in-turn, provide an opening for the devil to come in and wreak havoc on his life; which as we know is exactly what happened.

As we close, I want us to consider the power, intensity, and importance of what we studied tonight and over the last couple of weeks. I say this because Jesus will find many ways to repeat Himself over the next few chapters. Basically, He is our life and He is our entire provision and all that we must do to be in right relationship with Him, and all that we must do to be obedient to His commands, is to trust in Him—to place our faith entirely in what He can do in and through us.

We are simply not able, on our own, to love or obey His commands. Only He is able. Only He can provide to us Himself to fill us and overflow from us to others.

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He is it! He is everything! And all He asks of us is to believe. That is it! That is everything! We must be willing to bet all that we are on all that He is. We must be willing to make no provision—absolutely no provision—for the flesh with regard to its lusts by trying to take anything into our own hands or by trying to do anything for ourselves.

I want you to think about that little phrase, “with regard to its lusts.” Most of us hear that and we think of fleshy things like wild parties, getting drunk and immoral living, and so on. And, although those are indulgences of the flesh, I think the greatest temptation of our flesh, its ultimate desire, is to believe that we can be like God. This is the temptation that Eve originally succumbed to and I believe it is the same temptation that daily damages our relationship with God.

We all want to be in control and we naturally fight the notion that God wants to dominate our lives. But this is the very reason why Jesus has been so intent on us understanding that on our own we can never be like God, we are evil and corrupt. But if we let Him have absolute rule and total authority over our lives, where we trust Him regardless of what is going on in our circumstances, we will actually experience the very thing we have always wanted. We will, to the extent possible in these bodies of flesh, be like God because Jesus will live in and through our lives. Again, this is the reason why Jesus said in *verse 20* that those who welcome us will be welcoming Him. I hope you can see the dripping irony in all of this.

To live we must die! To love we must die! To be like God, we must die and let Him live. We must simply get out of the way so He can fill us up.

Let's Pray