



## **John 13:18-28, The Revealing of the Heart—Consequences of Wrong Choices**

*Bible Study Preparation, Gerald E. Cumby*

### **Choices, Song by George Jones**

*I've had choices Since the day that I was born...There were voices That told me right from wrong  
If I had listened; No, I wouldn't be here today...Living and dying With the choices I made  
I was tempted By an early age I found I liked drinkin'...Oh and I never turned it down.  
There were loved ones; But I turned them all away...Now I'm living and dying With the choices I made.*

*I've had choices Since the day that I was born...There were voices That told me right from wrong  
If I had listened; No, I wouldn't be here today...Living and dying With the choices I made.  
I guess I'm payin' For the things that I have done...If I could go back, Oh Lord knows I'd run.  
But I'm still losin' This game of life I play...Living and dying With the choices I made.  
Living and dying With the choices I made.*

*Songwriters: Billy Wayne Yates, Michael A. Curtis. For non-commercial use only.*

### ***Sometimes the choices made over a period of time are worse than the choices we make on the spur of the moment.***

*John 13:18-20, (Jesus speaking): "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: 'He who shared my bread has turned against me.' <sup>19</sup> "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am. <sup>20</sup> Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."*

- Jesus didn't tell His disciples that one of them would betray Him because He just learned about it. He knew it all along. Jesus told them this so the faithful disciples would remain confident in Him.
- Jesus reminded all His disciples – the ones who were faithful and Judas – that His work was not complete/finished. Judas, the betrayer, would not win; the work of Jesus would continue, and the rest of the disciples would be sent as His representatives. He also wanted Judas to know that by rejecting Him (Jesus) meant rejecting the God who **sent** him.

John 13:21-26, “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.”<sup>22</sup> His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. <sup>23</sup> One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. <sup>24</sup> Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, “Ask him which one he means.”<sup>25</sup> Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?”<sup>26</sup> 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.

#### **He was troubled in spirit:**

- Judas’ betrayal of Jesus **troubled** Him. Was Jesus feeling sorry for Judas or troubled because there was no desire for repentance.
- By revealing that one of them was a traitor, Jesus showed that He was in control of the situation; He was not taken by surprise.
- It was not obvious to the other disciples that Judas was the one.
- Peter’s question to John (here mentioned as the disciple **whom Jesus loved**) may have been prompted by a desire to take preventative action. Peter couldn’t discreetly ask Jesus, so he asked John.

“The disciple whom Jesus loved”...John referred to himself with this particular phrase four times in his Gospel, each connected with the cross in some way.

- ✓ Here in the upper room ([John 13:23](#)).
- ✓ At the cross of Jesus ([John 19:26](#)).
- ✓ At the empty tomb ([John 20:2](#)).
- ✓ With the risen Jesus at the Sea of Galilee ([John 21:20](#)).

#### **“It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it”:**

- The giving of the dipped bread designated special honor, something like a toast at a banquet. It was a mark of courtesy and esteem.
- Jesus knew Judas was against Him, yet His love and goodness seemed to become greater instead of lesser.
- **Jesus even gave Judas the chance to repent without revealing him as the traitor to all the other disciples.**

John 13:27-30, “As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So, Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.”<sup>28</sup> But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. <sup>29</sup> 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.<sup>30</sup> As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

- It was already in the heart of Judas to betray Jesus ([John 13:2](#)). Yet when Judas rejected the love and favor of Jesus it broke the barrier of desiring good and desiring bad/wholesome things within his spirit man (choices)...and **Satan entered him.**

- Again... “Satan could not have entered into him had he not granted him admission. Had Judas been willing to say ‘No’ to the adversary, all of his Master’s power was available to him.”

**“His act, however, was more than an incidental act of treachery; he sold himself to the power of evil.” (Tenney)**

- Judas shows us that fallen man needs more than an example and even more than good teaching. Judas had the best example and the greatest Teacher and was still lost.

*John 13:31-35, When he (Judas) was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. 32 If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. 33 ‘My little children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.’ 34 ‘A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.’”*

- **The world looked at the cross and could only say...humiliated, disgraced, cursed. Jesus looked at the cross and knowing what would be accomplished at it could truthfully say, glorified.**
- **This is the only place in the Gospels where Jesus addressed His disciples as little children. He didn’t mean it as an insult. He meant it with a sense of tenderness and care. He addresses them in a way that they should know there was more to come.**
- **This announcement was a shock and most disappointing statement that Jesus could have made. “He’s leaving after being with us for 3 years. Our world has been banking on you for our leader and Messiah.”**
- **That you love one another: We might have thought the new commandment was for us to love Jesus in an outstanding way. Instead, Jesus directed them and us to love one another, emphasizing that there should be a special presence of love among followers of Jesus Christ.**

*36 Simon Peter asked him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus replied, “Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.” 37 Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.”*

*38 Then Jesus answered, “Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!”*

### We believe:

- ✓ Peter would have died for Jesus right then...but he later failed because his **devotion was based on emotion**, and in the **soon-to-come crisis emotion would fail him**.

- ✓ Peter's denial of Jesus was a spontaneous choice (emotion). Peter's denial was terrible, but it wasn't the same as what Judas did (planned and calculated denial).
- ✓ We see a different Peter when his walk is no longer built on emotion, but on the work of Jesus on the cross and the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Till you have denied (disowned) Me three times:**

- ✓ Peter confidently said that he would follow Jesus and even die for him. Yet when the test came, he could not stand the test (a servant-girl's tongue was sharper than an executioner's sword).
- ✓ Before the next morning dawned, he would deny he even knew Jesus **three times**.

**PRAISE GOD FOR A SAVIOR WHO PATIENTLY WAITS FOR THE SINNER TO COME HOME!**

**JESUS STILL WAITS FOR US TO REPENT...STILL WAITS FOR US TO KNOW WHAT IS RIGHT AND DO WHAT IS RIGHT!**

**HE KNOWS WE ARE HIS DISCIPLES IN THIS AGE OF DECEPTION AND TURMOIL!**

**BE LOYAL TO HIS CAUSE UNTIL YOU CROSS THE FINISH LINE!**

