

Judas and Peter

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 13:21-28.

B. All power had been placed in Jesus' hands, so in a sense He was determining His own death.

C. Jesus even knew of the strife among His disciples.

D. In John 13 Jesus understood the hostility of Judas, the weakness of Peter and the power of love.

II. The hostility of Judas.

A. Judas was about to "lift his heel" against Jesus, which is a picture of someone suddenly kicking another in the face. (Psalm 43)

B. Judas.

1. He was elected treasurer of the apostolic band.

2. He saw in Jesus the promise of deliverance from the oppression of the nations.

3. However, Judas turned against Jesus when He started talking about of the cross.

C. Jesus tried to reach Judas, but Judas ultimately turned against Him.

D. Judas still had an opportunity to recover—Jesus would have never reached out to him if he did not. However, after he took the morsel at the Last Supper, he passed the point of no return.

E. Judas walked in the darkness, not in the light. (I John 1:7, Jude)

F. The secret of glory—the recognition of what we really are—is to lose yourself.

1. Jesus is glorified in the cross. In the cross, the inner character of Jesus is made visible.

2. The cross reveals all the truth about the Father. If we humble ourselves, we will be exalted.

3. The secret of losing oneself is to love one another as Jesus loved us.

a. We must love like Him.

b. Our love must originate from His love for us.

III. The weakness of Peter.

A. Judas betrayed Jesus, and Peter denied Him.

1. The difference is that Peter had been bathed.

2. Judas had never been bathed—he had never opened up his life to Jesus.

B. Jesus thoroughly understands us and enables us to give up in order to gain as we learn to love by the love of Jesus.

Application questions:

1. Why did Jesus put so much effort in Judas if He knew that he would betray Him?

2. What was the difference between Peter’s failure and Judas’s? What does this tell us about the importance of belief?

3. What areas in your life demonstrate your need to lose yourself the most? How can “love” equip you to do this?
