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:16-17 **“Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent [apostolos; the messenger, one who is sent to deliver a message] greater than the one who sent him. :17 If you (fully) know these things, you are blessed if you do them.** [Now do them! That is the path of blessing.]” When we are obedient to Jesus’ words (**15:14**), we will receive a blessing. Our Lord gives grace to the humble (**1 Pet. 5:5b**), as we serve one another. How do we serve? We by faith simply do something that someone needs done; we keep Jesus’ words. Jesus not only talks about a right attitude but He also calls us to act on what He said.

As we come to **:18-38**, we’ll see one who hasn’t received Jesus and one who will deny Jesus three times! The treachery of Judas Iscariot foretold (**:18-21**), the 12 astonished by the news (**:22-25**), and the traitor addressed by the Lord (**:26-30**). In **:31-38**, Jesus will give them a new commandment and predict Peter’s denials. We’ll just look at **:18-20** in this study (**read**).

In these verses the dialogue turns to a picture of the betrayer. :18 **“I do not speak of [I am not speaking about] all of you. I (fully) know the ones I have chosen; but it is that the Scripture [Ps. 41:9] may be fulfilled [will soon come true], ‘He who eats My bread has lifted up his heel against Me.’** Jesus handled the rejection by Judas as a fulfillment of Scripture and as the Father’s will.

Judas Iscariot looked like a disciple; he even acted like a disciple, but he was a traitor. It’s not that Judas had to be that betrayer or wasn’t chosen (**7:70**). Judas freely chose to do what he did. **Lk. 22:22** speaks of God’s sovereignty in all this, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed. Judas had every opportunity to turn from his sin; it wasn’t too late. But at this point his mind was made up. He’s already made plans to betray Jesus (**Lk. 22:1-6**),

Also notice, Jesus understood **Ps. 41:9** and realized Judas was the fulfillment

a local church meeting, becomes “a place where we can’t wait to get to so we can see what God is doing in the lives of His people and through His people.” “Lord, where can You use my life in building up Your Body and touching the world around me (**Eph. 4:12**)?” “There can be no true leadership in the Body except one who has his/her model the Master who does the work of a slave.”

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of that verse. Jesus accepted Judas' place leading to His crucifixion. But please remember, Jesus was not going to be killed by anyone. He was choosing to die, in our place and for our sins. It was His Father's will.

**Ps. 41:9** To eat bread together was a mark of close fellowship. King David was lamenting the defection of a trusted confidant. The traitor would come from among His most intimate friends. Being betrayed by a friend is hard to take: for no valid reason, your companion gets up & kicks you in the face! That's what Judas did to Jesus. Note, in this passage, there is no hint of anger by Jesus, only of sorrow. The Lord loved Judas. He loved him and kept reaching out to him. This was "Jesus' last-ditch stand to reach Judas before it was too late."

**:19 "From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass [before it happens] so that when it does occur, you may believe that I AM He [the One I claim to be—I AM!]." I AM—an emphatic form of speech.** Jesus was not merely asking for them to believe He was sent by the Father but also that He was Yahweh (**read 8:24,28,58**)! I AM is God's OT name, His forever name. He tells them now so that they will remember afterwards. The Spirit will bring it to mind.

**:20 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives [accepts, welcomes] whomever I send (Grk. apostolos, My messenger) receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him [the One, the Father] who sent Me."** Failure to receive Jesus would mean failure to know Jesus' Father. Judas didn't receive/welcome/accept either Jesus or the Father who had sent His Son. Judas had never yielded to Jesus' Lordship or His teaching. **1:11-12** tells us Judas failed because he never received the Word (Jesus and the Bible).

Also, Jesus was reassuring the Eleven that Judas' betrayal would not nullify their commission; He was still going to send them as His reps in the world. They would be sent (apostolos, messengers), having the full authority of the One who had sent them. In the end, the other apostles saw how God used evil for good, for the fulfillment of Scripture, and for the redemption of His own.

So, how do we apply these truths? First, when someone comes to us to wash our feet, to help us with some problem of Biblical sin or error in our lives, if they speak the Word and do it in love and humility, remember that this person was sent by Jesus; Jesus is serving us through that individual. Don't reject the love of Jesus being expressed through that individual. This thought is based on **Gal. 6:1-2**.

Second, as we reach out in love and service and humility to touch others (including the unlovely who are now everywhere in our society) with the love and message of Jesus, remember Jesus is loving them through us; He's the only One who can revolutionize our lives and theirs. It's like, "When people receive you, when they allow you to wash their feet, it is as though I Myself am washing their feet." That gives great significance to foot-washing. If someone receives us, they're actually receiving Jesus and the One who sent Jesus, the Father. We become part of what could be called 'the chain of grace'. The Father sends Jesus, and now Jesus sends us. Being part of that 'chain of grace' means you are an extender of the grace and love and words of God to all those whom God places in your world. May this passage impact us greatly. Joel

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