

WEEKLY SERMON

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A reflection for Good Friday

But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. Luke 22:21

The life of any community stands or falls on the trust, honesty and integrity that can be found between its members.

As Jesus shares his last meal with his friends, those with whom he has lived and ministered for the last three years, one of their number is called out as a betrayer – and they began to ask one another, which one of them it could be who would do this?!

Betrayal is a corrosive ingredient in any community. The betrayer, whilst sincerely believing they have just cause to do what they think is right, not only undermine their friendships and the life of the community, but also compromise their own integrity and their own belief.

We encounter Judas a number of times in the gospels and witness his frustration at Jesus' acceptance of certain types of people; or his failure to speak out when costly oil is seemingly 'wasted'.

It would appear that at some point in their friendship and the life of the community, Judas's understanding of who Jesus was, his mission and ministry, became divergent. Judas became disillusioned by what he saw and began to think and ultimately believe that he, Judas, was the one who had 20/20 vision on the world's problems and knew what was required to solve them.

So, he offered to betray Jesus and willingly accepted payment. His change of heart, his new loyalties were not recognized by the majority of his friends; but Jesus knew and called his betrayer out – not by name but by his actions.

As, we arrive at Good Friday and await Easter, it might be worth reflecting on our own actions in response to Jesus and our life in communities of which we are a part. Is what we do reflective of the life of Jesus, or are we more driven and directed by our own desires, passions and preferences?

As we kneel before the cross, what might we need to acknowledge or lay down in our own lives in order to let Jesus have more influence and direction in how we choose to live?

But see, the one who betrays me is with me and his hand is on the table.

May God give us grace to lay down our own desires, passions and preferences and choose to follow Jesus more faithfully and a journey that leads to the cross and then on to resurrection.

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HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES