



## John: The Great "I AM" Gospel

John 13:12-30

From sermon 8.25.24

Read *John 13:12-30 [21-28]*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Every good drama includes a plot twist, victims, heroes, and a villain. Following Jesus' beautiful, humble act of foot washing, all of these story components come to light. The greatest act of betrayal in human history is about to unfold. Studying the tragic events highlights the complexity of God's plan vs. human choices.

1. List some of the most notorious people in history. Various answers. Include: Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, Nero, Manson, ...

1a. Where does Judas Iscariot rank? Right near the top in even secular history. The very top spot in redemptive history.

2. Was Jesus blindsided by Judas' betrayal? Not at all. Besides divine knowledge, God had even prophesied the betrayal. See Psalm 41:9 & 55:12-13. [Note: Jesus knew all the Apostles would flee out of fear and He'd go to the Cross alone.]

3. Knowing Judas would one day betray Him, why did Jesus allow Judas into the group of Apostles? A much harder question, and one that makes many stumble, even unto disbelief. It's man who sinned and brought the curse. Man has been trying to kill God (extinguish the Light) since the beginning. For His own glory and plan, God can and does use human agents—even lost, hostile, enemies—physical and spiritual.  
Discuss other examples.

4. Because this was all God's plan before the foundation of the world, is Judas still culpable for his actions? Absolutely. Judas was not forced into anything. It was all his own sinful choice.

5. Read *Mark 14:19* & *Luke 22:23*. Exposed to the living, active word of God in prophecy, what was the reaction of the Apostles to Christ's announcement? Knowing their own internal struggles of faith, each became keenly aware of their own sin and vulnerability. Knowing human hearts and spirits, Jesus will even tell them to "stay awake and pray" for their own rebellion in trial.

6. Could Judas have stopped and repented at any time? Yes.

6a. How do we know this? The lead Apostle, Peter, will betray Jesus also. See *Matthew 26:69-75*. Even after denying Jesus 3-times, with swear words, Peter repented and was restored.

6b. Does that comfort you? Various Personal Answers

7. Discuss: In any and every church are phonies, the lost, and even wolves.  
See *Matthew 7:15* & *2 Corinthians 11:13-15*.

[And often not just in the congregation. But members, ministry leaders, and elders. See also *Acts 20:27-31*]