



Sermon Series: John - The Word of Life - Part 43

Message: "Remaining Loyal"

Text: John 13:18-30

Date: 11/13/2022

- ★ John's purpose for writing was to connect people to Jesus! (John 20:30-31)
- ★ John was writing to Jewish Christians being kicked out of their synagogues (John 9:22)

Abandoning Faith...

- 1 John 2:18-19 describes teachers who were once part of the church but eventually departed from the Apostles' teaching and the church.
 - This passage is not teaching that *everyone* who abandons their faith in Jesus must not have been a real believer in the first place
- Examples: Hymenaeus and Alexander (1 Timothy 1:20)
- 1 Timothy 2:3-4 - God wants all people to be saved, which also means that He wants those who left Him to return to Him
- God's heart has always been for people to return to Him
 - Examples: Malachi 3:7; 1 Peter 2:25
 - *Returning* to the LORD implies that you were once *with* the LORD

John 13:18-30

- (v18) "shared my bread" = pledging loyalty to that person
- (v18, ESV) "lifted his heel against me" = violent opposition
- (v21) Judas slowly gave over his loyalty (John 6:66-70; 12:4-6)
- (v21) "troubled" - same word in John 11:33 [shaking!] and 12:27 (see also Luke 22:44)
- (v24) the disciples were shocked that one of their own would betray Jesus
- (v27) there was a progression of influence and control - Judas had lost every ounce of loyal-love he had for Jesus at this point
- (v28) no one suspected anything was wrong!

Consider This:

- Judas is an unfortunate example of how even the closest follower of Jesus can be led astray by Satan and his spiritual forces of evil
- Today's passage forces us to look at our own faith and ask, "*Is my loyalty completely in Jesus, or am I allowing other influences to slowly pull me away?*"

- Going Deeper -

For individual or small group study

1. **READ Deuteronomy 4:25-31 and 31:20.** How is worshiping idols a way of rejecting the LORD? If the Israelites reject God, will God cut them off forever?
2. **READ Isaiah 31:6-7, 44:21-23.** Israel rejected God time and time again which led to judgment. Why would God judge them and does He simply give up on them?
3. **READ Jeremiah 3:1 - 4:1.** Why is marriage a good illustration of our relationship with the LORD (think about concepts like faithfulness, loyal-love and the results of being unfaithful)?
4. **READ Lamentations 5:19-22.** The author lets us hang, but knowing God's heart, how do you think God responded to this prayer?
5. **READ Hosea 5:4-5.** How did Israel's sinful acts affect their returning to the LORD? How does our own sin affect us as followers of Jesus? As Christians, what covers our sin (Romans 4:7; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 2:13)?
6. **READ Hosea 14:1-2, Joel 2:12-13, Zechariah 1:3, Malachi 3:7, 1 Peter 2:25, James 5:19-20, 1 Timothy 2:3-4.** Is it possible to return to the LORD after abandoning Him?
7. **READ John 15:4-7.** How is our free will to choose Jesus shown in these verses (btw, what Jesus says in verse 16 is like Him saying, "*This was my plan, not yours.*")?
8. What is the LORD showing you through today's sermon and the Scripture that you've read in this study?

Recommended Resources

- *NIV Faithlife Illustrated Study Bible*, christianbook.com, <https://bit.ly/3kxieXw>
- "Overview: John 13-21" by Bible Project, search on YouTube