

2009 #14 GOSPEL OF JOHN – PREDICTION OF DEATH, BETRAYAL, DENIAL

March 8th John 12:20-36,

PREDICTIONS

Today we look at Jesus prediction of his
Death, Betrayal, and Denial

Whenever we talk about predictions
Ears perk up, people shift forward in their seats.
We have a fetish for wanting to know the future.
There are 35,000 hits on the Internet on predictions
We have psychics, Numerologist, astrologers, water diviners,
The paranormal voices of Nostrodamus, Edgar Cayce,
Mother Shipton, Sylvia Brown and Peter Schriff.
Astrology and seers, trying to tell the future

Our movies and literature is also full of prediction and seers.
In the book and movie Lord of the Rings,
Galadriel employs a water “Mirror” to show images of possible future events.
All thru history from the Witch of Endor in the Old Testament,
Jezebels prophets of Baal, to the magicians of Nebuchadnezzar’s courts
To the fortunetellers of today.

A devout believer in astrology was a French King, Louis XI,
He was deeply impressed when an astrologer correctly foretold
that a lady of the court would die in eight days’ time.
Deciding, however, that the too-accurate prophet should be disposed of,
King Louis summoned the man to his apartments, having first told his servants to throw
the visitor out of the window when he gave the signal.
The king said: “You claim to understand astrology and to know the fate of others,
so tell me at once what your fate will be and how long you have to live.”
The astrologer said: “I shall die just three days before Your Majesty,”
The shaken king canceled his plans! Today in the Word, July 16, 1993

A prediction is a statement or claim that a particular event
will occur in the future in more certain terms than a forecast.
The etymology of this word is Latin (from *præ-* "before" plus *dicere* "to say").

Jesus predictions were never wrong,
And he never missed one.
That is the sign of a true prophet of God.

The Greek youth who came to visit Jesus set up

I. THE PREDICTION OF HIS CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH

Because they are looking for a messiah?

Jesus had just cleansed the temple the second time.

21They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." John 12:21

These Greek young men were God fearers
 Who had not yet become believers,
 But they wanted an interview with Jesus
 The difference between the Jews and the Greeks was great.
 The Jews would say: **“We would see a sign Matthew 12:38**
 But the Greeks said: **We would see Jesus John 12:21**

We don't know if he met with them or not.
 But their coming was somehow a sign for Jesus
 That his time had come.
 That his ministry of preaching was ending
 And his ministry of sacrifice and death was begun.
 Looking down on them he said:

23Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

Jesus predicts his death by using the image of a seed.
 Growing up on our farm along the river my father would
 Set aside 3 acres of land for our fruit garden.
 We would plant watermelon and muskmelons,
 Squash and cucumbers, tomatoes, and corn.
 Dad would lay out the land.
 And then he would pace off every 8 feet and place the watermelon seeds
 My brother would follow behind with the dusting and bug powder bag,
 Then I would follow behind him to cover the seed with the earth.
 Bury it in the ground to die and rise again.
 We in the Dakotas all know about seeds
 Falling into the ground and dying to bring forth fruit.

Jesus was saying we are like the seed
 Even though we may feel small and in insignificant.
 If we are willing to surrender to the Baptism of the death of self.
 We will find that out of death comes life.

25The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. John 12:25-26

The challenge to us today is
 Will you surrender your life to Jesus?
 Our choice is very clear:
 Loose your life and find it,
 Or save your life and loose it.

Jesus never asked in facing the cross
 What shall I do?
 He did ask:
 What shall I say?

27"Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. **28**Father, glorify your name!" **John 12:27**

If you were Jesus how would you conform you are the savior?

If the miracles you did, the people you healed, those you raised from the dead

Didn't do it?

What about a voice from heaven?

29Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. **30**Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. **John 12:29-30**

Jesus said the voice of God is for your benefit to believe.

It should have been persuasive enough,

But like most people not in tune with God,

Even when God speaks, they think its thunder, or indigestion

Or the mumbling of angels.

Now Jesus make it clear the kind of death he will face.

But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." John 12:32

When I am lifted up.

Lifted up means crucifixion

Jesus predicts his death.

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of man must be lifted up. John 3:14, He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die. John 12:33

Having said this: Jesus then ends his public ministry,

And John records that he departed and hid himself.

JESUS SECOND PREDICTION IN chapter 13 is of his betrayal.

II. HIS PREDICTION OF BETRAYAL

Judas is the betrayer.

Judas is the dark page in Jesus life.

"I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill the scripture: 'He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.' John 13:18

We all have had friends who have sided up to us.

Seemed to be on our side

Only to discover they never were.

They let us down.

They cut deep into our hearts

Because we allowed them to get close to us.

Judas never was a believer, he was a hypocrite.

For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. John 6:64

Judas never left the darkness of the world.

He never turned from his sinful heart and mind.

Jesus said: His heart was never clean.

Jesus knew who as going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. John 13:11

Judas does us a favor here this morning.
He shows us just how close a person can get to Jesus,
How close he can be in the church,
Or in a small disciple group,

Be the treasurer of the group: John 12:6

held in high regard by his fellow disciples.
And yet be lost forever.
And miss eternity.
Jesus quotes Psalms 41:9

Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread hath lifted up his heel against me. Psalms 41:9

Jesus quotes David psalm referring to his counselor Ahithophel,
Who turned traitor and joined Absalom's rebellion against him in II Sam. 15-17
What significant is that both Judas and Ahithophel
committed suicide by hanging themselves. **II Sam 17:23, Matthew 27:3-10**

Judas did not commit suicide in order to fulfill biblical prophecy,
For that would make God the author of his sin.
Judas was responsible for his own decisions
And those decisions fulfilled God's word.

Jesus knew what Judas would do from the beginning in John 6:64,
But his knowing did not compel him to do it.
All through his ministry Jesus tried to reach Judas
Maybe that is why Jesus spoke so much about the danger and love of money.
Friends this morning you can have Jesus wash your feet,
But is you never let him wash your heart,
You will be lost for eternity.

Finally in frustration over Judas resistance,
Jesus with a troubled spirit says it to his face in the upper room.

²¹After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me." John 13:21

²²His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. John 13:22

Peter signaled John to ask him to find out who the traitor was.

²⁴Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means." John 13:24

Jesus reply to John was not heard by the others.

²⁶Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. ²⁷As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. John 13:26-27

Judas act of taking the bread confirmed his decision and sealed his doom.
Because the Holy Spirit left him,
And the Satan Spirit entered him.

Had the disciples heard the words Jesus had said to John,
 They would have risen up and killed Judas,
 But seeing Jesus give the bread to Judas,
 They thought it was an act of love and honor.
 So instead of action, they got into an argument over who was the greatest.

Luke 22:24-30

Before John could say or do anything
 Jesus had sent Judas away.

³⁰As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night. John 13:30

John phrase “and it was night”

What a dark night of the soul it was for our world and for Judas.

Those who do evil hate the light John 3:18-21

The minute Judas was gone,
 The atmosphere changed,
 And Jesus moves to institute the Lord’s Supper.
 Something that Judas as an unbeliever certainly could not share.
 We come to Jesus

III. THE PREDICTION OF DENIAL

There have been a lot of sermons preached on Peter’s
 Following from afar
 He is the only disciple who stayed with Jesus
 through his arrest, beatings, and trial,
 But Wiersbe says:
 He shouldn’t have followed Jesus at all.
 Jesus told him not to follow.
 He said:

Where I am going you cannot come. John 13:33

He repeats just three verse later.

³⁶Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?"

**Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later."
 John 13:36**

Peter didn’t want to come later.

He wanted to come now.

He thought he could handle the price for following Jesus.

"Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." John 13:37

But Jesus saw what peter was really going to do.

That was to deny him.

**³⁸Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the
 truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times! John 13:36-38**

Are you and I any better than Peter?
 God gives us clear direction for our lives,
 Gives us specific boundaries, and guidelines,
 And we ignore them and wonder why were in pain.

The Bible says: “Don’t date or marry an unbeliever.”

Yet we not only date, and fraternize with the world
We marry into it and blame God for the pain we live in.

The Bible says: Don't have sex before marriage.
Yet we move from one sex partner to the other
In recreational sex and wonder why we experience sickness and soul death
Defying the purity and innocence that keeps marriages together.

The Bible says: Don't lie, don't steal, don't commit adultery.
The workplace is but a soap opera of ruined lives.
Why?

Because the flesh is unable to sustain the pleasures any longer,
We are like the man who has life in the flesh so many years,
is now sniffing the empty perfume bottle,
Trying to relive his lusts all over gain in the faded
memory of their fleshly life.

They substituted pleasure for Joy
And it let them down and faded out.
Because these open doors to the dark side and
When the shadow fall over our hearts and minds,
It destroys us, and we can't get away from it.

George Bernard Shaw said: There are two tragedies in life.
One not to get your heart's desire, and the other to get it."
Judas got it-- all that money
When he had-- it he threw it down.
Peter got it, he is acclaimed as the only one to follow Jesus that night,
but when he had it
he cursed it and denied it, and when the Rooster crowed,

Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken. "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three time." And he went outside and wept bitterly Matthew 26:79

Oh we can handle it, were stronger, smarter,
We're not the like the rest
There is no pain like the betrayal of our deepest friend,
No regrets like the broken covenant with our own integrity
No darkness and weeping like the denial of our lord.
We find ourselves outside and weeping bitterly.

The good news is that God isn't thru with you yet.
The ultimate goal of God for your life and every life.
Is the same goal God had for Jesus.
That through his Death, Betrayal, and Denial,
God is Glorified.

"Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. John 13: 31

Will you allow God to use your life?
In all its sinfulness and joyfulness to bring him glory and honor.
If you do you will find the ultimate joy and satisfaction of life.