Lessons of Fellowship & Betrayal

October 25,2026 Pastor Mark Turner
John 13:18-30 Oak Community Church (PCA)

The Nature of the Church

- God's gathering of those who have been made new by the Spirit[2Cor5:17;Tit3:5]
- Those who are being renewed into the image of Christ[Rm8:29]
- The church is not perfect it contains sinners who are being sanctified
- It contains wheat and tares[Mt13:24-43]. This was true in the upper room...

The Beauty and Power of the Church

1. True Fellowship Centers Around Jesus - diverse group of disciples but all focused on Jesus. Like a sheep flock – all listen to Shepherd's voice
2. True Fellowship is Built on Hospitality - Jesus called the meal

- Hospitality - not only opening homes, but opening our hearts and sharing lives
- Hospitality transformed the Roman Empire. John 13:35
- Discuss & think how we can show hospitality to neighbors, friends, etc...

3. True Fellowship Strengthens Faith - Jesus focused on spiritual not physical

- Jesus built up disciples faith for trials ahead[19]
- We are to build one another up[1Thess5:2,8-11] because Jesus bought you[1Co6:19-20]

4. True Fellowship is Rooted and Sustained by God's Grace - Jesus graced Judas

- Judas invited to meal; seat of honor; washed feet; shared bread
- Is our Christian fellowship overflowing with Jesus' grace?
- We have been given Christ's Spirit[Jn14:16-18,26] so we can!
- But they hurt me... Jesus told Peter[Mt18:21-22] forgive.
- How gracious is God with you? Psalm 103:8-13
- An unforgiving Christian is a contradiction in terms! 2 Cor 5:18-19

But What About Judas? How are we to understand?

1. Judas displayed outward duty w/o inward submission -

- Note his use of words 'Rabbi'[Mt26:25] vs. disciples 'Lord'[Mt26:22] : didn't submit
- Judas had done all the disciple stuff: preach, heal, etc.[Mt7:21-23]
- Judas' betrayal was years of compromise and living for self

2. Judas repeatedly resisted the Word of God

- Sat under best preacher, saw signs - but rejected. Bad soil[Mt13:3-23]
- Ask God to soften your heart to receive His Word[Isa55:11]

3. Judas rejected Kindness and Grace of Christ

- Jesus rejected repeated extensions of grace from Jesus, even last[24]

4. Judas would not entrust Himself to Christ

- Judas could have sought forgiveness from Jesus at anytime
- Do you need to seek forgiveness from Jesus today?

How to Apply?

- We are in a spiritual war - just like the upper room so PRAY[Mt26:41]
- Remember devil is seeking prey[1Pt5:8] so pray for self and others!
- Beware:devil's way to corrupt church: scandal, immorality, division, apathy

Remember These Truths:

- Church Life is never easy. God uses other sinners to sanctify us[Rm8:29]
- We must continually work hard to live in grace[Eph4:1-3]
- We are Called to Cultivate Jesus' Fellowship. Doesn't happen by accident
- As sinners we must put to death SELF and look to Jesus' example[4]
- Jesus sacrificed to redeem us[1Jn3:16] so we must also sacrifice for His glory!