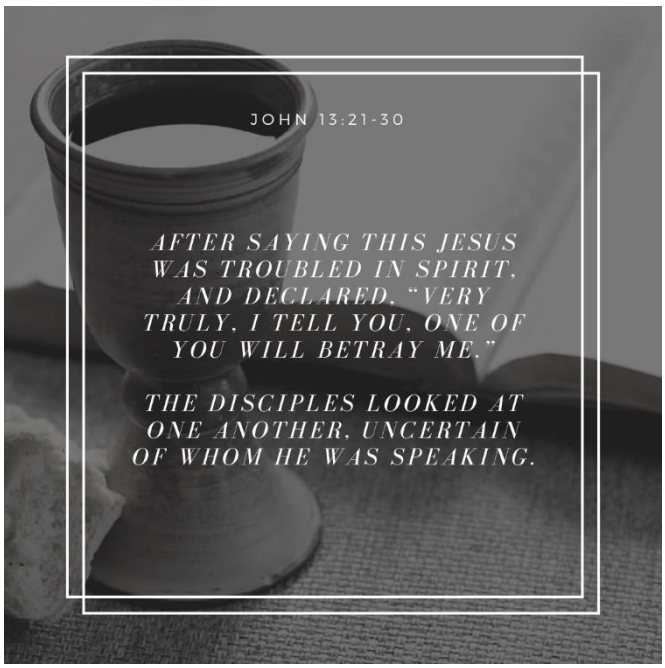
March 31, 2021 Lenten Devotional
John 13:21-30 - Jesus' betrayal
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After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, 'Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.' The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, 'Lord, who is it?' Jesus answered, 'It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.' So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, 'Do quickly what you are going to do.' Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, 'Buy what we need for the festival'; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night. -John 13:21-30

Reflection

Life is full of decisions. Each moment of everyday follows an action from the time one wakes up to the time they go to sleep. Most of these everyday decisions can be changed, altered, or even completely undone. These can be deemed as the simple decisions as they do not have heavy consequences and are easy to come back from when the result is undesirable. Now, what about the decisions that are unchanging, that no matter what actions are taken after, the original decision cannot be changed? There are countless times throughout life that we as people must make decisions that lead to a point of no return. In this passage, Jesus has already come to terms and is understanding that one of His disciples will betray Him. He does not go inherently out of his way to prevent this from happening despite knowing who the betrayer will be. He understands that Judas has already crossed this point of no return and that the moment Judas steps outside he will have been completely lost to the darkness. The only thing Jesus asked of Judas is that what he does, he does so quickly. It gives a feeling that Jesus is asking for mercy from Judas. He knows there is pain coming from Judas' actions, he simply asks that the pain be quick rather than drawn out.

I think this can be correlated with a concept that throughout life there will be times when we know that someone close to us will inadvertently let us down. There will be decisions made that are beyond that point of no return that can cause a divide between two people. Much like ripping off a band-aid, in anticipation we hope that the pain to come is only for a short duration to make it more bearable. I also think this lesson serves as a reminder that pain is inevitable throughout our lives and can be presented in many forms. The key to remember that despite this inevitability, we must remember that there will always be good to follow any bad. That

persevering through pain is what makes joy and happiness even more valuable. We can also find comfort in that we are never alone throughout whatever pain we may be going through as Jesus has experienced the same pain that we do.