

Discipleship: Betrayal—Denial—Recovery



Death of a Vision

As hard as we may try—we cannot use purely human efforts to produce purely spiritual ends. Not until I experience the ‘death of a vision’ can God fulfill His vision in my life!

Introduction: As much as Sarah and Abraham may have wanted the fulfillment of God’s vision in their life, Hagar was NOT the way. As much as some wanted Jesus to set up an earthly kingdom—it was NOT to be, at least not at this time.

A. Betrayal and Death: Judas *John 13:18-30*

No one knows for sure what was in Judas’ heart—except that he gave in to temptation and was **filled with Satan**.

1. **The chosen:** “Many are called but few are chosen.” *Mat 20:16* Scripture was being fulfilled in front of the disciples. :18
2. **A warning:** Jesus was warning the disciples so that they would know what had happened after the betrayal. :19
3. **Assurance:** In spite of this news—God’s plan would go forward. :20
4. **Anxiety at the table:** Jesus was troubled in His spirit (:21) and the disciples were perplexed (:22).
5. **Is it I?** “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.” (*1 Cor 10:12*) When Judas asked the question—Jesus replied— “you have said it.” *Matt 26:22-25*
6. **Sharing bread:** Jesus, the bread of life offers bread to the one who was to betray Him. :26

B. Denial and the Death of a Vision: Peter *John 13:36-38* Judas gave into temptation—Peter gave into **his own flesh!**

1. **Temptation:** Like Judas, Peter was also influenced by Satan—but was not ‘filled’ with him. *Mat 16:23*
2. **Testing:** Peter’s impulsive declaration was dampened by Jesus revelation that he would deny Jesus three times. To be tested in the extreme is to learn spiritual dependency.
3. **Death of a vision:** Peter’s vision of living and reigning with Christ and following Him where ever He went was shattered later that night when he denied the Lord three times.
4. **A new vision:** After His resurrection Jesus restores Peter. (*John 21:15-19*) On the **Day of Pentecost** Peter is launched into the fulfillment of God’s vision and destiny for mankind. *Acts 2:14*

John 13:18-30

:18 "I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'HE WHO EATS BREAD WITH ME HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.'

:19 Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He.

:20 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."

:21 When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me."

:22 Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke.

:23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

:24 Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke.

:25 Then, leaning back on Jesus' breast, he said to Him, "Lord, who is it?"

:26 Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, *the son of Simon*.

:27 Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."

:28 But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him.

:29 For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, "Buy *those things* we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor.

:30 Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.

John 13:36-38

:36 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward."

:37 Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake."

:38 Jesus answered him, "Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times.