Coronavirus Social Distancing Daily Devotion #14

Examine Yourself

**Luke 22:1-6 (NASB)** *1 “ Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was approaching. 2  The chief priests and the scribes were seeking how they might put Him to death; for they were afraid of the people. 3  And Satan entered into Judas who was called Iscariot, belonging to the number of the twelve. 4  And he went away and discussed with the chief priests and officers how he might betray Him to them. 5  They were glad and agreed to give him money. 6  So he consented, and began seeking a good opportunity to betray Him to them apart from the crowd*.”

We are in the middle of what traditionally has been called the Passion Week of Christ. Passion is not what you would normally think. In this case, Passion refers to suffering or Holy suffering. This then is the week in which Jesus would suffer as He pushes His way to the cross for us and to give His life as a ransom to buy us out of the penalty of our sin.

Luke records that Satan entered into Judas to do the work of evil to have Jesus arrested and eventually murdered. Throughout these verses, especially in verses four, five and six, you get a glimpse into the heart and mind of Judas. Those who know the truth of what is about to happen find themselves wanting to scream at the text and say, “Wake up Judas, don’t you see what you are doing”? “Look at your heart, look and your motives, look at what a huge mistake you are making”! But, Judas didn’t and wouldn’t wake up. By this time, he was a puppet in the hands of Satan and would eventually go to his death both physically and eternally.

What happened to Judas? Why did he do this to the Lord? We could say he wasn’t chosen or elect, and that would be true. And we could say that this was God’s divine plan to get Jesus to the cross, and that would be true. But also, Judas wasn’t paying attention. He wasn’t willing to look at himself internally and examine what his motives were and what repercussions his actions were going to have.

 It is easy for anyone to fall into the trap of Satan. To pursue a life that they want instead of what God wants. To be motivated by selfish desires that move them contrary to the plan and purposes of God. When anyone fails to examine their inner motives, they become easy pray for Satan to use us against the work of God.

Beloved, we are called by God to examine our hearts regularly. It is only through a thorough examination of our hearts, that the Holy Spirit will point out what is amiss. We need that daily examination. We need the daily purifying that God will give when we expose our hearts to Him. We need desperately to keep ourselves focused on the plan of God for our lives. Otherwise, we too will be drawn away into the world’s enticements and the worlds ideologies that often go against the plan of God.

Paul said it this way, **2 Corinthians 13:5 (NASB)** *5  “Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test*?” To fail the test is another way of saying you are not in the faith. You are not truly a child of God.

Wouldn’t it be terribly sad to live your life saying you belong to Christ and are part of His eternal family only to end up in Hell? Only the person or people who examine themselves are able, with God’s help, to open their hearts to what is inside. And when they do, they see their desperate need for Christ and His forgiving work on the Cross.

Oh, praise His Name for His work and His willingness to forgive even the vilest sinners.