

“Betrayal, Greatness, & Failure!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. **The Portia** (Por-sha) **Spider**: a jumping spider that uses **deception** and **mimicry** to catch and eat other spiders.
- 1.2. It uses **camouflage** or it shows a kind of **behavioral mimicry**:
- 1.3. It **imitates something** its intended victim finds **harmless or even attractive**. (i.e. it crawls on a spider's web, then *plucks the web* to imitate a captured insect)
- 1.4. **It varies its web signals** to suit its specific victim. If it encounters a new spider species, it tries **different signals** rather randomly. (It was once observed to perform *vibratory behavior* for **3 days** until the victim decided to investigate)
 - 1.4.1. That seems to be similar to our enemy **the devil** who seeks to **rob, destroy, or sift us like wheat!**
- 1.5. Talk about ruining a good meal! (21)

2. THE BITE OF BETRAYAL! (21-23)

- 2.1. (21) In the East the **worst breach of Friendship** is for one to eat another's bread & secretly betray him.¹
 - 2.1.1. To eat bread is a token of **loyalty, love, & devotion**.
- 2.2. **His hand is on the table** - is an **Aramaic colloquialism**, which means, “*he is eating my bread & yet he is plotting against me.*”
- 2.3. (22) **Destined to die!**
- 2.4. Judas' **accountability** and God's **sovereign** plan for Jesus' death are both seen together in this verse.
 - 2.4.1. Jesus had to die, for His death was the basis of salvation for all mankind, & the only means for lifting the curse of sin.
 - 2.4.2. **But** the betrayer was accountable for his actions.
 - 2.4.3. There was no other way to ultimate victory except **the cross**. This was **God's plan**, & His death on the cross was **his destiny!**
 - 2.4.4. The death of Jesus was God's plan for human redemption. **However**, those who were *responsible for His death* are held accountable for what they did.
- 2.5. **But woe to the man by whom he is betrayed** – Judas was **not a helpless pawn** in a **divine drama**, or Jesus would not have pronounced judgment on him for his betrayal.²

¹ Gospel Light ; George M. Lamsa; pg.300.

² Shepherd's Notes; pg.81,82.

- 2.6. (23) All the disciples were dipping their bread into the main dish, thus they all were asking the question, “**Is it I?**” (though expecting a neg response) (Mrk 14:19,20)
- 2.7. Our Lord did not tell His disciples who the traitor was; in fact, in love, Jesus protected Judas to the very end.
- 2.7.1. He **washed** Judas’ feet, **warned** him, and gave him every opportunity to repent.
- 2.7.2. We must never think that Judas was **forced** into betraying Jesus just because it was predicted in the Psalms.

3. **I’M NUMBER 1! (24-30)**

- 3.1. **REVERSING THE WORLD’S STANDARDS!**
- 3.2. I guess it’s the same as, “Who’s going to ride in the **backseat** & who will ride **shotgun?**” - “Who’s going to use the **TV Tray** & who will sit at the **big table?**”
- 3.3. Why would the disciples be arguing over **who** was the greatest when Jesus had just **washed their feet** and talked about **His suffering and death?**³
- 3.3.1. **Come on!** He’s going to be setting up His Kingdom on earth & you know he’s going to need **a Chief of Staff!**
- 3.3.2. Henry Kissinger said, “What is causing so much disharmony among the nations is the fact that some want to beat the **big drum**, few are willing to **face the music**, and no one wants to play **second fiddle!**”
- 3.4. Perhaps the **arguing** grew out of **the order of seating** at the table.
- 3.4.1. Seemed **Judas** was given the place of honor at our Lord’s left, & **John** was at His right. [Explain U shaped table]
- 3.5. Whatever the reason, their **attitude** was that of **the world**, where **competition** and **authority** are important to **success**.
- 3.5.1. In the kingdom of God, greatness is measured by **how many you serve**, **not** how many serve you.
- 3.5.2. **Dave Thomas**, the founder of **Wendy’s Hamburgers**, wrote: “I got my MBA long before my GED. I even have a photograph of me in my MBA graduation outfit—a snappy knee-length work apron. I guarantee you that I’m the only founder among America’s big companies whose picture in the corporate Annual report shows him wielding a mop and a plastic bucket! That wasn’t a gag; it was a case of **leading by example**. At Wendy’s, MBA **does not mean Master of Business Administration**. It means **Mop Bucket Attitude!**”
- 3.6. They wanted the **glory** but not the **shame** - The **crown** but not the **cross** - To be **masters** but not **servants!**

³ Warren Wiersbe; Outlines of N.T.

- 3.7. It is ok to go for greatness! Well actually, it is **praiseworthy** when we do so!
- 3.7.1. Didn't Jesus say, "among those born of women there has not risen one **greater** than John the Baptist." – Jesus was into **Greatness!**
- 3.7.2. Going after greatness is commended...it just needed to be redefined!
- 3.7.2.1. The **motivation** determines its **character!**
- 3.8. **Picture 2 poles with a tension wire! I-----I**
- 3.8.1. 1st pole is 1 Tim.3:1 "If a man **desires** the position of a bishop, he **desires a good work.**"
- 3.8.2. 2nd pole is Jer.45:5 "do you seek **great things** for yourself? Do not seek them;" (turn to)
- 3.8.3. We praise God for what Jeremiah but also for his **assistant!**
- 3.8.3.1. **Assistants** help those for whom they work, so they can be freed to get their work done!
- 3.8.3.2. **Moses** had 70 elders; **David** had his 600 men; **Jesus** had his disciples; **Paul** has *Silas, Timothy, Titus, & others*; **Lone Ranger** had Taunto; & **Jeremiah** had Baruch!
- 3.9. God warns Baruch, not against **ambition** per-se, but against **self-centered ambition!**
- 3.9.1. Any ambition that **centers on & terminates on oneself...is wrong ambition!**
- 3.9.2. **Q: Do you have ambitions for yourself...forget them!**
- 3.9.3. Let nothing be done through **selfish ambition**. Phil. 2:3
- 3.9.4. For whoever desires to **save his life** will **lose it**, but whoever **loses his life** for My sake and the gospel's will **save it**. Mark 8:35
- 3.10. **Seek for God's work to be accomplished & God to be Glorified!**
- 3.10.1. Like Baruch - When you hear all your work just went up in smoke; When it seems that your witness is useless, remember for **Whom** you are doing them!
- 3.10.2. Survey your **ambitions** & see if they are from **God**, or for **Self?**
- 3.11. Jesus is the **model** for our ministry, and He was a **servant**.
- 3.11.1. **Jn.13:1-5** – He got **all authority**, & did what? **Washed feet!**
- 3.11.1.1. He stooped lower & lower.
- 3.11.2. You may **push yourself** to the **top**, but when you get there, you'll find yourself **farthest from His presence!**
- 3.11.3. See, when you **serve others**, you'll look strangely like God!⁴
- 3.11.4. Imagine a *relationship, ministry, church, or marriage*, where the battle was...**Who can stoop lower**, to serve the other **better?**
- 3.12. When Jesus showed himself in His *post-resurrection* appearances, you not what he seemed to **show** the most? **His scars!** (not some **crowns**, not **new clothes**)

⁴ Erwin McManus; Uprising; pg.251

- 3.12.1. To Emmaus disciples - He was made known to them in the breaking of bread. (How? When hands broke bread?)
- 3.12.2. To 10 disciples in upper room - "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself." Lk.24:39
- 3.12.3. To Thomas – "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side." Jn.20:27
- 3.13. **Scars** seem to be the *authentic marks* of faithful discipleship.
 - 3.13.1. Who can challenge one's love when they show you the **print of the nails & the mark of the spear**???
 - 3.13.2. Paul said, "for I bear in my body **the marks** of the Lord Jesus".
 - 3.13.3. Do you have any servant marks? Maybe **camel knees** from praying so much? Or, **dishpan hands** from washing the feet of others?
 - 3.13.3.1. Let's take some marks with us!
- 3.14. **2 privileges:**
 - 3.14.1. [1] Eat & Drink at His table (that's **Fellowship**)
 - 3.14.2. [2] Sit on thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel (that's **Authority**)
 - 3.14.3. So, do you want to **be served food** down here or up there?
Do you want to **have authority** down here or up there?
- 3.15. The Lord assured them that the **greatest glory** was **yet to come** (29,30).
 - 3.15.1. So why settle for the **transient glory** of this world?

4. **WHEN A BELIEVER FAILS! (31-34)**

- 4.1. Watch Jesus now **pull back the veil** on the **unseen realm**!
- 4.2. The apostles had experienced some **great blessings** that evening, but **danger** was very near.⁵
 - 4.2.1. **Be on your guard** when you have a **rich spiritual experience**, for Satan is ready to attack! {*Beware of the Portia Spider*}
 - 4.2.2. Especially beware when you are deciding **who is the greatest!!!** 😊
- 4.3. **To sift you like wheat** – To test them. (i.e.) To put them through trials as he did Job.
 - 4.3.1. Wheat is sifted so as to separate the **tares & the soil** from the **wheat**.
 - 4.3.2. In this process of **purification**, it is *constantly shaken* in the sifter.
 - 4.3.3. Sometimes God **sifts** also! - Amos 9:9 "For surely I will command, And will **sift** the house of Israel among all nations, As **grain** is **sifted** in a sieve; Yet not the smallest grain shall fall to the ground".
 - 4.3.4. Results of the sifting/shaking: **Judas** was separated from them; **Peter** was to deny him; **& the other disciples** were to flee.
- 4.4. Satan already controlled Judas, but he had to ask for permission to sift the disciples
 - 4.4.1. **Jesus** uses a fan, & sifts to get rid of **chaff**; but **the devil** uses a fan & sifts to get rid of **wheat**!

⁵ Warren Wiersbe; With the Word; pg.684.

- 4.5. **Have you considered My servant Job?** – That word *considered* reveals the watchful eye of Satan, ever watching the saints. Searching for the weak link in the chain, the weak door in the fortress to break in & rob & destroy.
- 4.5.1. Of course he couldn't touch **a flea** on the back of one of Job's camels unless God allowed it!
- 4.6. **Lessons:**
- 4.7. **[1] Peter was clueless to the attack, but** Christ knew every detail about Peter's denial
- 4.7.1. There isn't a single detail of **your** testing that Christ doesn't already know about!
- 4.7.2. Job 31:4 **"Does He not see my ways, And count all my steps?"**
- 4.8. **[2] He didn't know he needed help,** Jesus knew!
- 4.8.1. Peter's answer showed that he comprehended neither the **serious events** fast approaching, **nor** the reality of **his own weakness**
- 4.9. **[3] He needed reassurance,** "when you have returned to me".
- 4.10. **[4] He needed to be re-commissioned,** "strengthen your brethren".
- 4.10.1. Last section, "**serve others**" now "**strengthen others**".
- 4.11. Cooperate with God's *character building process!!!*
- 4.11.1. God **doesn't enjoy** seeing your faith come under attack. But He does long to see your **faith mature!**
- 4.11.2. He longs to see you become more **like Christ.**
- 4.11.3. Christ's **comparison of Simon's test to a farmer sifting wheat,** pointed to the **positive outcome** of the process.
- 4.11.3.1. You can't make bread out of wheat until the hull has been **parted** from the grain. **That's why sifting has to take place!**
- 4.12. **Faith should not fail** – [*ekleipo* /ek·li·po] where we get our word **eclipse.**
- 4.12.1. Your **faith** won't be **eclipsed** Peter, because Jesus **prayed!**
- 4.12.2. Eph.6:16 **"above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one."**
- 4.12.3. And his **faith didn't** fail, Nor his **love.** His **courage** is what failed!
- 4.12.3.1. Peter was a **courageous man,** but he would **fail** just the same because of his **self-confidence.**
- 4.12.4. Had he heeded the Lord's warning, he would have spared himself a great deal of **sorrow** and **shame.**