

Tuesday of Holy Week – 3/18

"Before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. During the supper with his disciples, Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, 'Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.'" (John 13:21)

Jesus lived closely with his twelve apostles. They rubbed shoulders all the time. They sat around the fire at night and shared stories. When one of them had a family problem Jesus knew it. When one of them wasn't feeling well Jesus knew that too. He did not come to know His apostles well because He was the Son of God. He knew them because He was an interested fellow human being who valued relationships.

In John's gospel Jesus tells us that He knows that one of the apostles will betray Him. As we read the rest of the account of the Last Supper we realize that Jesus knows exactly who will betray Him. Jesus knew these twelve men well. He knew their hearts and knowing their hearts He knew whose heart was slipping away into darkness. Jesus did not come to this knowledge because of some sudden bright insight but because Jesus probably had felt Judas disengaging spiritually for a long time.

Ask someone who has experienced divorce. Most will honestly admit that their partner had been slipping away slowly over the course of years. Perhaps they will say that each of them gradually just stopped working at the relationship. When the moment came when one of them asked for the divorce there may have been sadness and regret but not surprise. Even those who were taken by surprise in hindsight often realize that there were signs there all along that they had just not wanted to recognize.

For those of us who have experienced betrayal in our lives it is wonderfully comforting to know that Jesus is there for us. Jesus understands what we are going through and He knows this not just as God but as a human being as well. We can bring our pain to Him and He will be able to get close to it. He will recognize the sorrow because it has been His sorrow as well. When we finally realize that we have the strength to move forward from a devastating betrayal then we'll know that the power of Jesus is close at hand.

Reflection Questions

- 1. What can I do to ensure that my relationship with Jesus never slips away?*
- 2. How does His unwavering love for me influence my life choices?*

*Prayer: Jesus, in Your humanity you knew betrayal just as I have come to know it.
May I learn from You how to cling to my faith in the Father to see me through
the pain and sorrow. Amen.*