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 Maundy Thursday  
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***The Last Night***  
***John 13:1-27, 34-35***

*Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup> The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <sup>3</sup> Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup> got up from the table, [a] took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup> Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. <sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ...*

*<sup>12</sup> After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup> You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ...*

***Jesus Foretells His Betrayal***

*<sup>21</sup> After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." <sup>22</sup> The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. <sup>23</sup> One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; <sup>24</sup> Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. <sup>25</sup> So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" <sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." [a] So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. [b] <sup>27</sup> After he received the piece of bread, [i] Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." ... Later Jesus said to them, <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

**Maundy** Thursday. Maundy comes from the Latin for commandment. Tonight that we remember the **Last Supper**, when Jesus told his disciples this is my body, this is my blood. It is the night that we remember him **washing** their feet, telling them to love one another the way he **loved** them.

It is also the night when we remember his **betrayal**, and as we walk through the scriptures tonight, we will go all the way to the **cross**, that we might walk through the **entire Holy Week** with Jesus, before we meet here again on **Easter** morning.

On the last night of his life, Jesus showed **his great love**, and he was shown **great evil**.

**We are no strangers to evil**, or **betrayal**, right? We've all been betrayed, by a friend, or family member. Jesus was betrayed by one of his own disciples. And we know what a **shock** it can be, don't we?

It seems like whenever they interview the friends or next door neighbors of criminals, we invariably hear something from them, like "he was just a regular guy. I'm **shocked**."

The disciples were shocked that **one of THEM** would betray their dear friend and Lord, the one they had followed, the one for whom they had given their lives, for three years!

But that's **usually** how it is. Evil is **everywhere**, we don't even need to turn on the news, we can find it in our own schools, communities, in our country, in our homes, and **in our hearts**.

It's why we find it so necessary, especially on nights like tonight, for us to **confess our sins together**—because **evil exists in all of us**. As Paul says, **all have sinned and fallen short** of the glory of God. It's why we need a **Savior**.

Which is why we need to ***remember this night***,  
and this ***week***,  
before we come to Easter.

Because the Good News and salvation that we so desperately need---  
we can ***only truly celebrate*** it,  
once we have walked in the darkness with Jesus,  
the darkness of betrayal and crucifixion.

There are always lots of reasons why people betray one another.  
Many have speculated ***why Judas did*** what he did.  
Was it money?  
Fame?  
Power?  
Revenge?  
Was it because Jesus wasn't the kind of Messiah he wanted?

We don't know.  
The point is that he betrayed Jesus.  
Just as we betray ***one another***.  
Just as we have betrayed our ***own Lord***.

To be betrayed is part of ***being vulnerable*** to human pain and suffering.  
What would it mean ***if Jesus had not*** been betrayed?  
That would have been a different story, right?  
If he had not been handed over to the authorities, and crucified?

Instead Jesus was betrayed, handed over, beaten, humiliated,  
and crucified on Good Friday.

And that's where we find the ***beginning of the END***  
***of all pain and betrayal and humiliation***.

Isaiah 53:5 says this:

*But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,  
and by his bruises we are healed.*

In Jesus' death and resurrection,  
we find the **healing power of God's grace**.  
We find the **wholeness** we need,  
to be healed from our own betrayals in life.  
From our own wounded-ness,  
from the pain that comes when the evil of this world  
penetrates our lives.

And **on this night**, this night of remembrance, of the Last Supper,  
of the foot washing, of the great commandment to love,  
On this night, we begin our journey to the cross and empty tomb,  
where we will **find the healing** we so desperately need,  
from our Lord and Savior Jesus.

He died, that we **might live**.  
He suffered, that we might be **set free** from suffering.....  
the grace comes to us now,  
but one day, **all suffering**, pain, evil, and sin will be wiped away forever.  
And Jesus will say from the throne of grace,  
See I am making **all things new!**  
Amen.