# "Driven to Betrayal"

John 13:1-30

STRENGTH for the Journey with Joe Stowell

Part of the RBC family of Ministries

## Individual Study Introduction

After listening to the audio segment, use the following questions as your time allows. You may want to record your answers or jot down thoughts and notes in a personal journal. You may also want to use your journal as a record of your prayer time with God. Write out your prayer or simply record your requests and the areas of your life you are releasing to God. This written record will help you to watch God's movement in your life. You'll see more clearly the ways God is giving you "strength for the journey"!

## Getting Started:

Joe Stowell observes that during Holy Week we normally think about our Savior's death and resurrection, which should cause us to be struck with awe in a way that inspires us to live more fully for Him.

- What are some Holy Week traditions that have been meaningful to you?

- Joe adds that he is deeply intrigued by the disciples during this week, particularly how they were up to their same old selves. What can you do to avoid being "up to your same old self" this Easter season and, instead, to reflect upon and appreciate what Jesus went through on our behalf?

## Strength through Scripture:

Read John 13:1-5, 18-30.

1. We know from Luke 22:24 that during the Last Supper the disciples got into an argument over which one of them was the greatest. How much do you see yourself in the disciples—competing with others and wondering: Do people recognize me? Do they affirm me? Am I important? Am I popular?

2. Do you agree with Joe that we tend to write off Judas because we think he's so unique and theologically disconnected from us?

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**Lesson 1**

*Notes:*

*""I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill the scripture: 'He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.."*

John 13:18

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3. How do you feel about Joe's statement that the scary reality is that there's something of Judas in all of us?

4. Why do you think it never crossed the other disciples' minds that Judas was the one to be the betrayer, even after Jesus handed him the piece of bread?

5. What do you think of Joe's claim that we can be perceived to be trustworthy by others, but lurking underneath a supposedly trustworthy heart can be a movement to betray Christ?

***Digging Deeper:***

If you have enough time, answer one or more of these optional questions. But be sure to save time for the final two sections.

1. Read John 12:1-6. How do Judas' words in verse 5 illustrate Joe's warning to beware when people sound too spiritual?

2. How does it make you feel that Jesus—knowing Judas was about to betray Him—showed honor and love to Judas by having him sit in the seat of honor next to Him and dipping the bread in the special sop and handing it directly to him?

3. What was the significance of John's note in John 13:30 that "it was night"?

**Strength through Reflection:**

1. Joe states that people like Judas who are addicted to personal gain are very concerned about maintaining and controlling their comfort zone in order to gain peace, safety, and security. To what extent are you concerned about maintaining and controlling your comfort zone?

2. Read the "Call to Action" below. What is your response?

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Notes:

**Strength through Prayer:**

Spend a few moments in prayer. As Joe asks, could there be a Judas among us this Holy Week who observes and participates in it all, but who thinks: It's really about me and maintaining my gain and managing my comfort zone with peace and safety?

You may want to begin your prayer with these words:

"Lord Jesus Christ, as I think about Your suffering, death, and resurrection this week, I recognize how deep and rich and wonderful that gift is to me. You have given us a privileged position as children of God and joint heirs with You. I am so honored and loved by You; and yet in the face of that I can be so calculated and intentional and stubborn about my sin and betrayal. I strike down the Judas in my heart. I say no to personal gain and comfort, and I say yes to following hard after You."

***Closing Call to Action:***

*What's the comfort quotient in your heart? What's the cash quotient?*

*If Jesus were to ask you this week to give up some comfort or cash for Him, would you do that? If your answer is yes, then you are striking down the Judas in your heart—and that's a really good thing. But if you're resisting, you need to look again and let God's Spirit transform your heart.*

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