

The Self-Deception of Trusting in Ourselves

Sermon 77 in the Matthew Series

Matthew 26:20-25, 30-35

Last week, we looked at the Last Supper – and the important changes that took place as Christ celebrated the last Passover and instituted the first Lord’s Supper.

By way of review, we ask -- what happens at the Lord’s Supper?

1. It is the remembrance of His work on our behalf which leads to our giving of thanks
2. We participate in the proclamation of the Lord’s death until He comes.
3. At the Lord’s Supper we experience the first-fruits of the eschatological kingdom. v. 29

I. Exposing the Betrayal -- Matthew 26:20-25

Exposition

Two warnings and one word of comfort:

1. False Believers are content to sin if they are not caught and get away with their sin.
2. False Believers do not even begin to understand the wickedness of their own heart.
3. True Believers often do doubt the sincerity of their own hearts

II. Trusting in Ourselves -- Matthew 26:31-35

A. Zechariah 13:6-9 -- v. 31

⁶And *one* will say to him, ‘What are these wounds between your arms?’ Then he will answer, ‘*Those* with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.’

⁷“Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, Against the Man who is My Companion,” Says the LORD of hosts. “Strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered; Then I will turn My hand against the little ones.

⁸And it shall come to pass in all the land,” Says the LORD,

“*That* two-thirds in it shall be cut off *and* die, But *one*-third shall be left in it:

⁹I will bring the *one*-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, ‘*This is My people*’; And each one will say, ‘The LORD *is my God*.’ ”

1. The suffering shepherd/servant
2. The great forsaking – this is what Christ is pointing to with his disciples
3. The salvation of the remnant – here given as 1/3

B. Peter Trusted in Himself – v. 32-35

I will never be made to stumble! v. 33

Was he sincere? YES.

Was he sincerely wrong? YES!

The Lord answers v. 34

Peter was contradicting the Lord – when you do that – YOU will be wrong.

Peter was contradicting Scripture – when you do that – YOU will be wrong.

Peter was confident in himself – and believed better about himself than he did his fellow disciples.

The other disciples were also self-confident – v. 35

III. A Lesson in Humility Quickly Forgotten – John 13:1-11

A. Footwashing was a Custom of the Day

B. The Spiritual Significance of Christ's actions

IV. Final Applications

1. The means of grace build up Christians, but not the lost.
2. There's much in how Jesus treated Judas that is instructive to how Elders need to treat professing Christians in the church.
3. Are you a Peter?
4. Are you a Judas?