

The Betrayer Comes to Supper

Matthew 26	Mark 14	Luke 22
20 Now when evening had come, He was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples. ¹	17 When it was evening, He came with the twelve.	14 When the hour had come, He sat down with the twelve apostles.
<i>Jesus serves the Passover meal and institutes the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:20, 26-29; Mark 14:17, 22-25; Luke 22:14-20)</i>		
<i>Jesus teaches about greatness in the kingdom (Luke 22:24-30)</i>		
21{a} As they were eating, He said, [...]	18{a} As they sat and were eating, Jesus said, [...]	

John 13
18 “I don’t speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen. But that the Scripture may be fulfilled, ‘He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.’” ²
19 “From now on, I tell you before it happens, that when it happens, you may believe that I am He.” ³
20 “Most certainly I tell you, he who receives whomever I send, receives Me; and he who receives Me, receives Him Who sent Me.”
21{a} When Jesus had said this, He was troubled in spirit, and testified, [...]

Matthew 26	Mark 14	John 13
21{b} [...] “Most certainly I tell you that one of you will betray Me.”	18{b} [...] “Most certainly I tell you, one of you will betray Me—he who eats with Me.”	21{b} [...] “Most certainly I tell you that one of you will betray Me.”
		22 The disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke.

Matthew 26	Mark 14	Luke 22
22 They were exceedingly sorrowful, and each began to ask Him, “It isn’t me, is it, Lord?”	19 They began to be sorrowful, and to ask Him one by one, “Surely not I?” And another said, “Surely not I?”	23 They began to question among themselves, which of them it was who would do this thing.
23{a} He answered, [...]	20{a} He answered them, [...]	

¹ Each of the Gospels portrays the events of the Last Supper in a lightly different order, while detailing different aspects of the evening. These accounts are not intended to be strictly chronological in their presentation, and they do not contradict each other. As Köstenberger and Taylor explain: “The differences in arrangement do not represent contradictions but, as Matthew and Mark indicate, selective recountings of some of the things that took place ‘as they were eating.’ This way of presenting the material does not necessarily require chronological precision but rather indicates that the words were spoken at some point during the meal. Likewise, the differences in the degree of detail surrounding the words and actions of Jesus and his followers are due to the evangelists’ theological and literary selectivity in framing their presentation. No Gospel author claims to record everything that was said or done that night” (Andreas J. Köstenberger and Justin Taylor, *The Final Days of Jesus* (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 2014), 57-58. The order in which I present the events of the supper here and throughout the study are not the only possible timeline.

² Jn 13:18 ref: Psalm 41:9.

³ “I am He” (Jn 13:19) is an example of Jesus claiming to be the Messiah.

		21 “But behold, the hand of him who betrays Me is with Me on the table.”
23{b} [...] “He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish, the same will betray Me.”	20{b} [...] “It is one of the twelve, he who dips with Me in the dish.”	
24{a} “The Son of Man goes, even as it is written of Him, but woe to that man through whom the Son of Man is betrayed!” [...]	21{a} “For the Son of Man goes, even as it is written about Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed!” [...]	22 “The Son of Man indeed goes, as it has been determined, but woe to that man through whom He is betrayed!”
24{b} [...] “It would be better for that man if he had not been born.”	21{b} [...] “It would be better for that man if he had not been born.”	

Matthew 26	John 13
	23 One of His disciples, whom Jesus loved, ⁴ was at the table, leaning against His chest. ⁵
	24 Simon Peter therefore beckoned to Him, and said to Him, “Tell us who it is of whom He speaks.”
	25 He, leaning against Jesus’ chest, ⁶ asked Him, “Lord, who is it?”
	26 Jesus therefore answered, “It is he to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it.” So, when He had dipped the piece of bread, He gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.
25 Judas, who betrayed Him, answered, “It isn’t me, is it, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You said it.”	
	27 After the piece of bread, then Satan entered into him. Then Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly.”
	28 Now no man at the table knew why He said this to him. ⁷
	29 For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus told him, ‘Buy what things we need for the feast,’ or that he should give something to the poor.
	30 Therefore having received that morsel, he went out immediately. It was night.

⁴ This refers to the Apostle John, according to the testimony of early Christians. (See Eusebius of Caesarea, *Historia Ecclesiastica*, 3.23.1.)

⁵ This (Jn 13:23) is a reference to sitting in a position of honor at the supper. Here, John indicates that he was seated right next to Jesus during the supper, possibly on His right side.

⁶ See footnote 5.

⁷ Given Jesus’ identification of Judas as His betrayer in Mt 26:25 and Jn 13:26, it is hard to imagine that this verse means the other disciples missed the fact that Judas would betray Jesus. Instead, it seems likely that they simply did not understand that the actual betrayal would occur *that night*. If that is the case, they were merely confused as to what Judas was supposed to “do quickly.” To that point, Jn 13:29 shows that they assumed he was being sent on a financial errand.