

Holy Wednesday readings:

Psalm 70

John 13:21 – 32

21 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.**” So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot.<sup>27</sup> After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “**Do quickly what you are going to do.**”<sup>28</sup> Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him.<sup>29</sup> Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the festival”; or, that he should give something to the poor.<sup>30</sup> So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, “**Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him.**”<sup>32</sup> **If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.**”

## **A Reflection for Holy Wednesday 2020**

This scene from the Last Supper, is full of questions and answers that don't make any sense. Just like we are full of questions and may have answers that don't make any sense to us or our lives at the moment. I think the biggest issue for us is accepting our own limitations. Our confinement into our homes, our loneliness if we live alone, home schooling of our children, limited activity opportunities away from our homes. Or our struggle to juggle between the work we still do elsewhere or at home and family life. These limitations then become one of the spiritual challenges that we face in these weeks of uncertainty, loss and isolation.

I think the reading from John's Gospel for today offer us a view into that personal spiritual challenge.

We often get quite caught up by what Judas did that we overlook an important fact; Judas was chosen by Jesus as one of the twelve disciples. He wasn't just another person following Jesus from afar. No, Judas together with other eleven disciples journeyed with Jesus, shared meals with Jesus, learned from Jesus, worked with Jesus and, as friends always do, must have had many conversations with Jesus.

So what happened? How could someone so deeply connected to Jesus be willing to do what he did? We really don't know why Judas turned Jesus over to the authorities. It is possible that Judas, like most of us, acted from complicated and unclear motives. Wishing something different from Jesus than what Jesus seemed to be offering? Being full of questions and getting answers that didn't make any sense. Feeling uncertainty? Loss of what he hoped for would happen? Feeling isolated from others and their dreams and hopes?

Whatever it was for Judas, here's a point to think: Judas was willing to give the life of Jesus away for money. But Jesus was willing to give his life away for Judas – and each one of us.

Let me say it again. Jesus willingly gave his life away for us. So, let us take a moment now to reflect on this act of love and then commit ourselves afresh to follow Jesus' journey towards the Golgotha this Holy Week 2020 and with eager anticipation wait for the Day of Resurrection.

**Amen.**