

R/SF

09.10.17 | Lean Back

John 13:21-29

21 After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.”

22 His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. 23 One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. 24 Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, “Ask him which one he means.”

25 Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?”

26 Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.”

28 But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. 29 Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor.

“Betrayal is more than separation or rejection. To betray is to use the secrets of a person’s personal life, thoughts confided to a ‘friend,’ and to turn against that person, to use their confided thought or words in order to hurt and defile them, to destroy a reputation.”

- Jean Vanier, *Drawn into the Mystery of Jesus through the Gospel of John*

John 13:21

Jesus was troubled in spirit [or in anguish] and testified, “Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.”

John 13:30

As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

John 1:4

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

A disciple is someone who is leaning back against Jesus, hearing His heartbeat, and from that perspective, looking out into the world.

A disciple is one who sees the world with the sound of Jesus' heart in their ear.

John 1:18

No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

John 1:18

No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

John 13:23

Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved.

Intimacy with Jesus has revelational relevance.

What does Leaning Back require?

You have to show up.

“There is no bad way to pray and there is no one starting point for prayer. All the great spiritual masters offer only one non-negotiable rule: You have to show up for prayer and you have to show up regularly.”

- Ronald Rolheiser, *Prayer, Our Deepest Longing*

You must put away distraction.

You need to let go.

Release control of your relationship with God to God.

“The practice of silence is the radical reversal of our cultural tendencies. Silence is bringing ourselves to a point of relinquishing to God our control of our relationship with God. Silence is a reversal of the whole possessing, controlling, grasping dynamic of trying to maintain control of our own existence. Silence is the inner act of letting it go.”

- Robert Mulholland, *Invitation to a Journey: A Road Map for Spiritual Formation*

“Without the regular experience of being received and loved by God in solitude and silence, we are vulnerable to a kind of leadership that is driven by profound emptiness that we are seeking to fill through performance and achievement.”

- Ruth Haley Barton, *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership*