

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

Standing on the Promises of God - -

Psalms 37:39-40 “. . . the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; He is their strength in time of trouble.
40 The LORD helps them and delivers them; He delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in Him.”

Luke 6:12-13, 16

Corrected translation - **12** It was ***in these days*** that He went off to the mountain to pray and ***He was spending the whole night in prayer to God.***

- Reference to the second year of our Lord’s ministry
- Times characterized by great momentum – multitudes of people were following Him.

“spending the whole night in prayer to God” – The Greek conveys progressive motion picture action executed from the humanity of Christ in seeking the Father’s will through prayer.

13 And when day came, He called His disciples (**μαθητής** – “students”) to Him and ***He selected*** twelve of them, whom He also named as **apostles**.

- **ἀπόστολος** – One who is entrusted with a message and sent out to represent another.

Judas and Judas - -

16 Judas *the son of James*, and Judas Iscariot, who **became** a traitor.

- **γίνομαι** - “Come to be”
 - ✓ Judas Iscariot was not a traitor when the Lord selected him.
 - ✓ Judas Iscariot *came to be* one!
 - ✓ Judas Iscariot exercised his volition to hand over the Lord.
 - ✓ Judas Iscariot chose his destiny – as all men do!

Remember Judas Iscariot and his trip up Dung Creek?

Judas Iscariot, as an unbeliever, offered up his emotions to God but that could not save him!

In review - -

POD - The stream leading to Dung Creek begins with arrogance.

- Arrogance is acting independently of God!
- Arrogance in the life of the believer and the unbeliever.

POD - Arrogance results in a lack of trusting the veracity of the Lord’s Word.

POD - Therefore, arrogance places the believer on azimuth for Dung Creek.

- The path of the arrogant believer always ends up in Dung Creek when acting independently of God.
- Eve was **deceived** into acting independently of God in the garden.
- She thought she needed to know more!

- ✓ Judas was not a traitor when the Lord Jesus Christ selected him as one of the 12.
- ✓ Judas' trust was in his treasury as opposed to the Lord and His Word (**Matthew 6:19-21 cf. John. 12:4-6**).
- ✓ He was arrogant and opportunistic; hence, he employed human cleverness to insure against the unseen risks of following the Lord.

Believers will often employ human cleverness to insure against unseen risks of “walking by faith.”

- ✓ Judas' arrogance and lack of faith made him the weak link of the 12 disciples and this rendered him susceptible to satanic influence.
- ✓ Satanic influence began with Satan's temptation to betray the Lord.
- ✓ When Judas engaged his volition in that temptation, it resulted in his intention to betray Jesus Christ.
- ✓ This influence culminated in satanic possession.

Why did the Lord select Judas from all His students to be one of the 12 whom He would send out after an entire night in prayer?

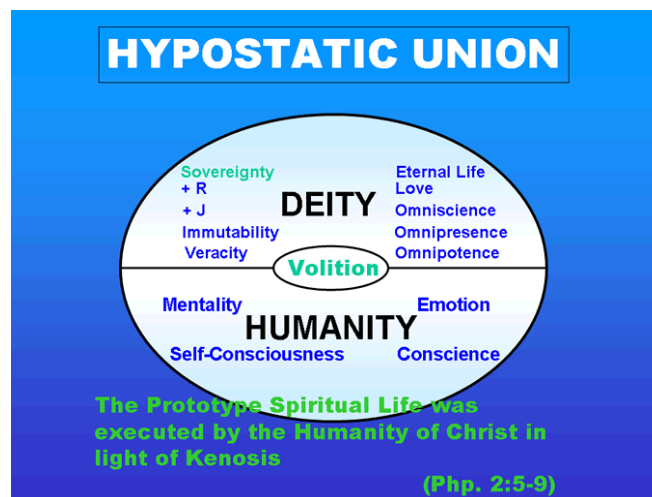
- **It was the Father's will.**
- **That will was revealed to the humanity of the Son during that entire night in prayer up on the mountain.**

“He was spending the whole night in prayer to God”

Jesus Christ, as the author and perfecter of our spiritual life, was malleable to the will of the Father, even though that will was unpalatable to his humanity.

We often don't consider the limitations of our Savior's humanity and how at times He struggled.

Jesus Christ our Lord, Dr. John Walvoord pg. 110



- An example of the humanity of Christ struggling with the revealed will of the Father is observed from the Garden prior to His arrest.
 - ✓ It was the Father's will for the Son to go to the cross.

- ✓ In the Garden, the humanity of Christ struggled with that will to the point where he suffered *hematidrosis* - a rupture of the blood vessels into the sweat glands triggered by the reality of imminent death.
- The **humanity of Christ** desired to avoid the physical torture of the cross.
- The **deity of Christ** desired to avoid contact with sin on that cross involved in substitutionary spiritual atonement.

Jesus Christ submitted to the will of the Father *in prayer* - the epitome of malleability.

Luke 22:41-44

⁴¹ And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and *began* to pray, ⁴² saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this **cup** from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done." ⁴³ Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him.

"Cup" indicates the will of the Father for the Son.

- What was the angel?
 - ✓ The Father's answer that the Son must drink the cup – even though the Son wanted to avoid that.
 - ✓ BUT the Father would provide the strength to endure what was set before the Son to drink.
 - ✓ The cup was the Father's will and the Son submitted Himself to that will.

Application - God's will is always good, well pleasing, and perfect, no matter how physically unpalatable it may be to our human nature. Nonetheless, He will provide the strength for His child to endure it through prayer.

⁴⁴ And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.

So what about the night before He selected the 12?

- The Father's will was revealed to the Son while He was praying on that mountain the night before the 12 were selected.
- The will of God had to be revealed to the humanity of Christ – humanity had to be led by the Spirit.
- Humanity had to depend on the Spirit.

It is my opinion that the Son spent the entire night in prayer because He *desired not* to choose the one who would betray Him – yet He submitted to the will of the Father and chose Judas.

John 17:12

- A prayer that He prayed after the Last Supper; prior to His arrest.
- He has just taught His last class to the disciples.

¹² "While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition [a reference to Judas Iscariot], so that (ὅνα – "in order that") the Scripture would be fulfilled.

The Father's will is to fulfill scripture!

Psalm 41:9 Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.

- ✓ Judas was in the intimate circle with Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Judas ate His bread.
- ✓ Judas lifted up his heel against Jesus Christ.

John 10:27-28

²⁷ "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand."

- Judas was never placed in the Savior's hand because no one can be snatched from that hand; therefore,
 - ✓ **Judas was not one of the Lord's sheep.**
 - ✓ **Judas was never given eternal life.**
 - ✓ **That made him *snatchable* - and he was snatched by our adversary the devil.**
- Jesus Christ spent the entire night in prayer because the Father's will for the Son to be betrayed by Judas was revealed that night, and the humanity of Christ wrestled with the Father in prayer.

The humanity of Jesus Christ submitted to the will of the Father.

“And when day came, He called His *students* to Him and *He selected* twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles.”

- The selection of these disciples, including Judas, was done in accordance with the will of the Father.
- He treated Judas with respect the entire time the one who would betray Him walked with Him.
- The opportunity for Judas was always there to believe Jesus Christ.
 - ✓ Judas had an opportunity provided in grace.
 - ✓ Judas did not earn it or deserve it – but it was always there for him.

Hebrews 2:14

¹⁴ Therefore, since the **children share in flesh and blood** He Himself likewise also partook of the same . . . *limitations to which we are subject.*

- ✓ **Children** - “children of God”
- ✓ **Share** – **κοινωνέω** – To have a share **in flesh and blood.**

A reference to our humanity that is limited in nature.

Subject to -

Physical death and pain

Thirst Hunger Exhaustion Emotions Grief Anguish

The same limitations to which we are subject!

Hebrews 5:8

⁸ Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

- ✓ **Deity** does not suffer and **deity** does not need to learn a thing.
- ✓ The **humanity** of Christ learned as He experienced the limitations that we face.
- ✓ He suffered and learned through experience by taking on flesh and blood.
- ✓ Jesus Christ was a REAL PERSON.

Hebrews 2:16-18

¹⁶ For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant (σπέρμα) of Abraham.

Galatians 3:29

²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants (σπέρμα), heirs according to promise.

- ✓ You became a descendent at *faith alone in Christ alone.*
- ✓ He [*Jesus Christ*] **gives help** to that descendent.

- ✓ Help for you to make it through each day
- ✓ He knows exactly what you need because He has experienced *the same limitations* that you do.

¹⁷Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

Would you want anyone else providing help to you?

How could you trust in anyone else, except your Savior, in a time of need, anguish or grief?

As the author and perfecter of our spiritual life, Jesus Christ was tested in that which He suffered.

He suffered betrayal by one who was close to Him.

He suffered physical death.

Pain - - Thirst - - Hunger - - Exhaustion - - Grief

Isaiah 53:3

³ He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of **sorrows** and acquainted with **grief**; and like one from whom men hide their face He was **despised**, and we did not esteem Him.

Hebrews 4:15-16

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things **as we are**, yet without sin.

Have you ever suffered betrayal – rejection – anguish of soul?

¹⁶ Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.