

Introduction

- Jesus returning for Passover is ironic because the feast's intention was to seek cleansing

from sin, but the Jews' intention is to stain the nation with Jesus's death.

- He returns to feast with friends; what a cool view of our future! Reclining with loved ones

who enjoy an eternal perspective founded upon an eternal future!

- Judas embodies harm to healthy churches: gospel-sounding people with demeanors

resembling Mat 12:20's bruised reeds but are actually Acts 7:51's stiff-necked.

I) Christians enjoy Jesus (1-3)

- The dinner is beautiful! Jesus enjoys friendships forged through deep gratitude for one

another, only possible amongst those who experience rescue.

- We share in Jesus' rescue; our individual stories bear striking similarities; what's impossible

for us to grasp, to survive, and to heal from is possible in Jesus.

- Jesus covers us and takes the hits when life throws us into murky, gross water; Jesus

liberates us when trapped, assures us when hopeless; He redeems us!

II) Judas envies Jesus (4-6)

- Judas shows how easy it is to lose everything: just envy anything more than Jesus.

- We relate to Judas every time we feel isolated and lonely! Judas was hanging with Jesus,

who alone can embrace our ugly and awful, but we often deny him.

- I mentioned the stiff-necked, bruised reeds earlier — this was Judas who faked care for

others, but his real intent was caring for his true love: himself.

III) Jesus encourages JOY! (7-8)

- These friends, bonded by suffering, knew what was going on politically against Jesus, but

Lazarus had gained eternal perspective which demanded joy.

- I remember 1976, the excitement, gratitude, and hope. I contrast that with chatting with a

friend this week lamenting the division, violence, and despair.

- News on our 250th is a mess, regardless of where on the political or cultural spectrum you

reside; discord is rampant, but NOT in Christ or His Kingdom.

Conclusion

- Most of us love our country; I don't even watch soccer but GO USA. Personally, I have

concerns, grumbling alongside my preferred news, but need rest in my King.

- Assess within your life the relationship between your anxiety and assurance.

Does any

anxiety you face find Jesus surprised, ill-prepared, or too flimsy to fight?

- No! Then lets get on with living with expectation, encouragement, and joy!