

ESV STUDY BIBLE NOTES

John 13:18-30

13:18 I know whom I have chosen does not refer to choosing for salvation but to Jesus' choosing of the Twelve, including Judas, to be disciples (this is the same sense given to "choose" in 6:70, where it clearly includes Judas). Jesus cites Ps. 41:9, dealing with Absalom's rebellion against King David; the "faithless friend" there may be Ahithophel (2 Sam. 16:23). Judas's lifting **his heel against** Jesus brings out the treacherous and faithless nature of Judas's deed.

13:19 Jesus' statement is one of several references to his foreknowledge in this section (cf. 14:29; 16:1, 4, 32, 33; see also previous note). The statement **I am he** very likely has overtones of a claim to deity (see note on 8:24; also 8:28, 58; 18:5, 6, 8).

13:20 The one I send refers first of all to the disciples whom Jesus would specifically send out at 20:22. But more broadly it applies to all messengers of Christ, in every age, who bring the gospel of Christ to others. **receives**. To truly "receive" such a messenger is to accept and believe the gospel and to trust in Christ. (The same word for "receive" [Gk. *lambanō*] is also used in 1:12; 3:32–33; 5:43; 12:48.) This and similar verses (e.g., 20:22; Luke 18:17; Rom. 3:25) give the basis for using the language of "receiving Christ as Savior" in reference to hearing the gospel message and believing it.

13:21 troubled in his spirit. See note on 12:27; cf. also Ps. 31:9–10; 38:10; 55:2–14.

13:22 uncertain of whom he spoke. Judas's outward behavior conformed so nearly to that of the other disciples that they did not immediately assume that Jesus was talking about Judas.

13:23 This is the first reference to the disciple **whom Jesus loved** (see Introduction: Author and Title). On **reclining**, see note on 12:2. In such a situation it would be easy for John to lean back a bit and whisper privately to Jesus, as he does in 13:25. See also 21:20.

13:27 Satan entered into him. Though Satan had earlier put the desire to betray Christ into Judas's heart (see v. 2), Satan himself now enters into Judas, suggesting a more dominant influence in the actions to follow.

13:30 And it was night strikes an ominous note (cf. Luke 22:53: "this is your hour, and the power of darkness"). See also Matt. 26:20; Mark 14:17; 1 Cor. 11:23.¹

¹ Crossway Bibles, [The ESV Study Bible](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 2051.