

Maundy Thursday 4. 9.2020 Text: Luke 22:47,48

Maundy means mandate or command. On this day Jesus gave us a command to love one another.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sermon words of God:

WHILE HE WAS STILL SPEAKING, A CROWD CAME UP, AND THE MAN WHO WAS CALLED JUDAS, ONE OF THE 12 WAS LEADING THEM. HE APPROACHED JESUS TO KISS HIM, BUT JESUS ASKED HIM, JUDAS ARE YOU BETRAYING THE SON OF MAN WITH A KISS? This is the Word of the Lord.

Friends who see the Son of Man Going Forth to war for you,
Has anyone ever tried to lift personal information from you?
Social security number, banking info or other?

That kind of program is called a Trojan horse. It gets its name from the Trojan war between the Greeks and Trojans. The Greeks built the wooden horse and set it outside the walls of Troy and then left. When the Trojans saw it they pulled the horse into the city. As it turned out, there were soldiers hiding inside the horse who opened the city gates at night so the Greek army could come in and defeat the city of Troy.

12 men walked beside Jesus, heard his sermons, watched amazing performances called miracles, prayed with him, and did mission work for him. But one man became the betrayer.

The enemy Satan had inserted a Trojan horse in his heart, gained control, and turned him against his Savior.

We lock our doors, deadbolt them trying to keep away robbers. But our worst attacker is the one Judas had.

Time for the last meal together. They had gone to the Garden of Gethsemane. There Jesus prayed. But each time he found his disciples sleeping. On this dreadful night, Judas walked up to Jesus and dramatically kissed him. (Kissing was not done on the lips but on the cheek-was a traditional greeting still done today). To some it looked like if Judas were greeting a good friend in Jesus. But all knew what it meant: He was using the display of close friendship to betray Christ. Had the Trojan horse entered his heart?

Most of you know:

Judas was the treasurer of the group-helped himself to some of the money.

Satan had entered his heart to go to the leaders and seek money in exchange for a betrayal.

3 dreaded words at the meal: Satan entered him.

Even at the meal they wondered who the betrayer would be. Did they suspect one another? They knew their own weaknesses. Each of them had a sinful nature.

Jesus warned them. 2 disciples go down that night from the Trojan horse. Judas and later Peter who denied he was not with Jesus in the Garden.

You? Me? What kind of Trojan horse will Satan plant in our hearts? Aren't we like Peter? Paul said, WHAT A WRETCHED MAN I AM. WHO WILL RESCUE ME FROM THIS BODY THAT IS SUBJECT TO DEATH? Romans 7.

Did you see the spiritual war going on side of us? I want to trust Jesus with all my heart, but my faith is under attack. You get flashbacks and feel dirty and unworthy of Jesus. Improper thoughts in your mind? Living in disappointment? Lost your cheerful spirit in giving and serving? Bible reading been slipping? And your prayer life?

Do you see the Trojan heart that can attack us? But here's the good news.

We have warrior who can help us fight these battles and sneak attacks. We agree with St. Paul who writes: THANKS BE TO GOD, WHO DELIVERS ME THRU JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. (Romans 7:25).

There is a stronger hand on our hearts. Closing the gate on Satan's war in our hearts. Jesus went to the cross with our sins piled high to feel the full misery of hell in our place, with the prize in his sight of earning full and free forgiveness for every sin we ever committed.

He has given us some wonderful weapons we have for our personal struggle against Satan and our sin:

First weapon is his powerful Word. The Word is a double edged sword as it exposes all that we try to keep hidden, and at the same time, it cuts away all the guilt as it brings Jesus into sharp focus....our dear Jesus the heart of God's Word. His Word makes our faith stronger, and it even alerts us to the Trojan horse of Satan! It is both our armor and offensive weapon. (Ephesians 6).

Second weapon is the Lord's supper which Jesus instituted on this mandate/Maundy Thursday. This meal personally provides us with Christ's body and blood. It is as close as we can get to Him this side of heaven. He is touching us with his real presence. Do you see yourself at the end of the table? Slipping in your struggle with the devil, this meal points me back to Jesus. Forgiveness of my sins is mine in Christ. My battle against Satan is personal but so is this meal.

Another weapon is the Holy Spirit working in you right now. We have each other. Though distanced we are still one in this mighty man, victorious warrior, and Savior. We are one in faith, love, grace and peace.

So fully loved and fully equipped soldiers of Christ as Savior we hear: **PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD, SO THAT WHEN THE DAY OF EVIL COMES, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND YOUR GROUND, AND AFTER YOU HAVE DONE EVERYTHING, TO STAND.** (Ephesians 6:13). Amen.