



22 February 2026

John 13:18-38 – Sovereign Saviour, Unstable Disciples

Small Group Questions

Pray for God's help as you turn to look at His word, to understand and respond rightly to what you'll see. Read through the passage and then discuss these questions together.

1. Can you think of a time when you were confident in your abilities only to have your incompetence exposed?
2. Jesus' disciples never expected that one of them would betray Jesus (v22). But Judas' betrayal doesn't catch Jesus by surprise. How do we see Jesus' control in v18-20? At the same time, how does Jesus feel about his betrayal (v21)?
3. Sometimes we are shocked by the downfall of a Christian leader who turns out to be a fake. How can v18-21 help us when that happens?
4. CS Lewis said: *"You will certainly carry out God's purpose, however you act, but it makes a difference to you whether you serve like Judas or like John."* What do you think he means? How might Judas serve as a caution to us?
5. Look at v36-38. What do you think Peter still needed to learn about Jesus and about himself?
6. When we sin, we may be shocked at how badly we've failed Jesus, but Jesus isn't shocked. Jesus laid down his life for disciples like Peter - and for disciples like us - already knowing how badly we would let him down. How does that make you feel about him?
7. In Sunday's talk Trefor said: *"Failure is an opportunity for us to develop maturity in Christ by understanding our need of him – it is part of the process of our discipleship."* Have you experienced this to be true? How can our failures as disciples end up deepening our relationship with Jesus?
8. Sadly, this side of heaven, we will fail Jesus. So – the next time you fail Jesus, what would it look like to 'fail well'? In other words, the next time your incompetence as a disciple is exposed, how should you respond to Jesus?

Respond to God's word in prayer

Share any answers to prayer you've seen since you last met

Take some time to pray for each other

Our desire for small groups is that they would help us be a "people who are in the process of having their lives turned inside out and upside down by the progressive work of transforming grace."

(Taken from 'Lead' by Paul Tripp. p42)