

“Lord, Is It I?”

(Compiled by Paul R Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Matt. 26:14-25
- B. The Lord’s Supper is meant to be special. It is **His** Supper.
 - 1. He instituted it
 - 2. He determined what would be eaten
 - 3. He gave the elements their meaning
 - 4. He limited those who may eat it
 - a. Although there were many disciples of the Lord, He ate it with the eleven apostles only.
 - b. No friends or strangers were invited to that table.
 - c. Not even the owner of the home where it was ordained was invited to attend.
 - d. Jesus did not institute the supper until the betrayer left
 - 5. The Lord’s Supper is still limited today. It is restricted to baptized believers who are members of the Lord’s Church
 - a. Like His supper, He also defines the nature of His church
 - b. He limits those who enter; it must be by obedience to the gospel
 - c. He limits membership to those who remain faithful
 - d. He defines the work, worship, and organization of His Church
 - e. There are no betrayers in the Lord’s Church eating the Lord’s Supper at His table. A betrayer may pretend to do so, but the Lord does not acknowledge fellowship with him
- C. Everyone must ask the question: “Lord, is it I?”
 - 1. The faithful because they examine themselves conscientiously
 - 2. Betrayers because they do not want to be distinguished from the saved
 - 3. Who are the betrayers of Christ? “Lord, is it I?”!
 - a. Titus 1:16; 2Tim. 3:5; Jude 12
- D. Satan among the saints
 - 1. Job 1:6 - It is a waste of time to speculate over the details, but it illustrates the point that the Adversary will be found among them if it serves his purposes.
 - 2. The Lord’s question illuminates the fact that Satan did not belong there
 - 3. From Satan's presence among the sons of God we learn:

I. ASSEMBLING WITH GOD'S PEOPLE WILL NOT PROTECT US FROM SATAN

- A. Betrayers worshiping among the sons of God is presumption, not reverence.
 - 1. It is not beneficial to the person's own self; his worship is dead and unprofitable.
 - 2. It may be an occasion for more sin; Satan tried to undermine Job and plotted his destruction.

II. ASSEMBLIES ARE NOT FREE FROM SINFUL PEOPLE

- A. Hypocrites assembled with the disciples from the beginning - Rev. 2:14-15

1. Should Christians stop gathering because hypocrites sometimes gather with them? Neither should one stop attending because there might be a hypocrite there.
2. Of the twelve apostles at the Passover, one of them was a betrayer
3. This should make us vigilant even when gathered before the Lord
4. This should make preachers faithful, so that Satan may not feel at home in the assembly, but will be dismayed by the truth which he hates.
5. This should make us long for the perfect assembly in heaven where there will be no hypocrites and betrayers.

III. SATAN HAS AN AGENDA WHEN HE ASSEMBLES WITH CHILDREN OF GOD

A. To bring harm to Christians

1. As with Job, Satan wants to accuse us before the Lord. What a coup that would be for him if he could do so when we are assembled! How far away from God have we gone when we can assemble and pretend to worship in the presence of the Lord?
2. To distract them from worshiping in spirit and in truth and shifting their focus to secular, material, or worldly matters
3. To move them to criticize instead of listening to grow, to sow discord
4. To move them to pride in preaching, teaching, singing, prayer, giving
5. To cool their zeal, dissipate their love, chill their praise, making their prayers dull and routine, robbing them of joy in worship.

B. To bring harm to unsaved visitors

1. By distracting attention from hearing the truth
2. By raising doubts, inserting skeptical ideas, raising unrelated questions
3. By suggesting delay to those who may respond to the Gospel
4. By taking away the word which was sown in their hearts

IV. HAS HE IMPACTED YOUR WORSHIP AND SERVICE TO GOD?

A. "Lord, is it I?" - Matt. 26:22

1. To their credit, instead of looking at the others, each disciple was moved to ask about himself, "Lord, is it I?" - 2Cor. 13:5

B. Worshiping with a non-spiritual attitude

1. Worship has to do with my attitudes and actions - John 4:23-24
2. Challenges to spiritual part of worship
 - a. The Lord's Supper - 1Cor. 11:27-29
 - b. Singing and praying - 1Cor. 14:15
 - c. Contribution - 1Cor. 16:1-2; 2Cor. 9:7
 - d. Listening to the word - Acts 17:11; 1Thes. 2:13

C. Measuring myself by others

1. An unwise standard - 2Cor. 10:12; Gal. 6:4
2. Tends toward false evaluations - Luke 18:9-14
3. Must exceed the average - Matt. 5:20, 46
4. Jesus Christ is the only acceptable standard - 1Peter 2:21; 1Cor. 11:1

D. Neglecting duties towards others

1. Gen. 4:9; Gal. 6:10; Luke 10:29

2. Am I talking with others about the Lord? - Prov. 11:30
3. Am I encouraging my brethren? - Heb. 3:13; 1Thes. 5:14
4. Am I setting a good example? - Matt. 5:16

Conclusion:

- A. "Lord, is it I?" is a challenging question, and only the honest heart will ask it and then do what is necessary to please God.