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# THE DARKENED HEART: DEALING WITH DECEPTION

**John 13:21–30**

## BIG IDEA

*“Like Judas, our hearts darken when we trust our own suppositions over God’s discernment — but unlike Judas, we can still turn toward the Light.”*

## POINT 1 — Guard Against the Agitation of Your Heart

*The battle begins within. An agitated spirit left ungoverned becomes the entry point for deception.*

**Jesus was troubled in spirit, yet still testified to the truth.** *What does this teach us about the relationship between our emotional state and our response to God’s Word?*

*In what area of your life right now are you most tempted to let agitation become your guide rather than submitting it to God’s declared truth?*

**Jeremiah 17:9** tells us the heart is deceitful above all things. *How does this reality change the way you handle internal conflict and confusion?*

## POINT 2 — Reject the Trap of Your Own Suppositions

*The soul is not equipped to produce divine truth — only to receive it. Every supposition built on outward appearances leads further from truth, never closer.*



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**The disciples looked at the bag in Judas's hand and constructed the wrong explanation.** *What is the "bag" in your life — the outward evidence you are most tempted to build your theology around?*

*What is the difference between submitting your suppositions to Scripture and submitting Scripture to your suppositions? Can you think of a real-life example of each?*

**Divine truth flows downward through the resurrected spirit into the soul – not upward from the soul's reasoning.** *How does this truth challenge the way you currently approach Bible study and prayer?*

## **POINT 3 — Heed the Warning of a Darkened Heart**

*Spiritual darkness is never the result of a single catastrophic decision. It is the destination of a journey. The night did not fall on Judas — Judas walked into the night.*

**Judas held the bag, sat at the table, and walked with Christ – yet still departed into darkness.** *What does this warn us about the danger of trusting outward religious activity as a measure of inward spiritual health?*

**The sop was Christ's final intimate offer of grace to Judas before the release.** *Have you ever recognized a moment in your own life where God was extending a final offer of grace before allowing consequences? What did you do with it?*

**The sermon described the darkening heart as: ungoverned agitation → unchecked supposition → spiritual darkness.** *Where in that progression have you been recently — and what step do you need to take to reverse course?*



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