Fellow travelers, on this Friday the the 2nd of August 2022, we read again from Luke 22:1-13. On the day of Passover they met and celebrated as a reminder of what God did on the last night of their bond age in Egypt,whennGod killed all of the first born of Egypt. In this day they celebrated their freedom from the hands of their Masters. It is during this time that the leaders of the Jewish planned to arrest Jesus. Judas allowed the devil to use him to betray his Master.

This offer by Judas delighted the Jewish leaders because now they would not have to wait until the end of the Feast of Unleavened Bread to seize Jesus. This they ate whilst on the run. They offered Judas thirty silver coins if he would give Jesus into their hands. Matthew 26:14-15. With Judas help it was easy for them to execute their plan, to kill Jesus. Unfortunately, Judas was a thief, John 12:6. He was part of the inner circle for all the wrong reasons. He had hoped that he would be an important official in an earthly kingdom which he expected the Messiah to establish. As soon as it dawned on Judas that he was not going to be part of any earthly kingdom, and that this woman in Bethany had, in fact anointed Him for burial, he saw that there was no further advantage in following Jesus. Was Judas greedy or is it because he allowed the devil to come in? John 13:27.

Psalm 49:9 had said one of His would betray him. He betrayed Jesus out of his own free will. He had enough time to rethink his decision to betray innocent blood. Now, this celebration must also remind us: of the goodness of the Lord. We see here high ranking religious personalities planning the death of another human being. They wanted Him dead by hook or by crook. We must take from this passage tonight that Satan can use anyone who makes themselves available to destabilize God's work. We have have churches that are in disarray because we allow him to.

Choose to be used of God. What is your role in your church? I conclude by cautioning us against the love of money. Never allow money to control you. We see that even those who had the money were not free to bribe, they did it secretly. But hey, serve Him openly and allow Jesus to send you like He did to the disciple to prepare for the Passover. Jesus is still in the business of sending, open your heart and allow Him to direct your life. I wish you a blessed weekend. Your partner in the Gospel, Awedzani Nemaukhwe, Modimo shuwe. Mulalo