It is Not I, Is It?

Matt. 26:20-35

Intro - A. You have right to ask - Why these services each night?

1. Few leaders decide and all expected to be here?
2. Keep church spiritually alert in this interim?
3. Because other congregations are? Can't fall behind?
4. For new members? older members?

B. Some of us need little reason. More at home in church than anywhere. Tent or cathedral and we'll be there.

C. But we confess we are victims of the age. Economy of time necessary. One hour each night!

D. Answer in another gathering of disciples.

1. about the time of Pass.
2. Following Mark's secrecy in the story.
3. An upper room become a sanctuary
4. 13 men, all Jews, keep Passover feast.
5. One will betray. Response (note the Greek) - It is not I, is it?

I The affirmation - It is not I.

A. Betrayal, death, denial, treason - these words do not belong here.

B. The declaration of his disciples - It is not I.

C. And there is strong support in it.

1. The nature of the group.
2. The past experiences together.
3. The occasion is against it. Table fellowship is sacramental.
4. Their vows against it.

D. This is the proclamation of our presence here, in truly reason to come - We have declared ourselves.

1. Our colors flying; our commitment made public. Here we have taken our stand - be of sin, betrayal,
2. whatever there all denial in world - not among us.

3. We know our hearts. Say we are fools, or poor, or wrong, or ignorant, or dreamers; but of one thing we are capable - loyal attachment. With hoops of steel we are bound.

4. It is not D.B.!

II The Uncertain Question - Do it?

A. From lip to lip, heart to heart the question passes. Voice of Jesus too penetrating, eye too searching to make self confidence possible.

B. They remember - If you want assurance you are a disciple, look to him, not within self.
Ill. Man burning boards off own house.

C. They know their own intentions but also know what happens to good intentions. To promise - God not intend this.

D. They know the power of evil.
1. Milton's picture of sin. Deceptive.
2. often gaining our minds without our being aware.
Samson arose as before, not knowing"
3. often comes thru those close to us: Jacob deceives Esau; boy & first beer (with friends); marie leaves home (with friends); girl in trouble (with boy friend).
4. Hard and difficult times lie ahead.

E. They know uncertain and difficult times lie ahead.
1. Wife housewife stoves, answers.
2. Never know what burdens get to bear.
Ill. - Faulty foundation could not bear 2nd floor. Crack as accusing finger pointing at plaque - Jno. Smith, Contractor.

Concl - A. Why, then, do we come?
B. Declare to friends, Sun. p.m. company, to world - It is not D.
C. Yet, know my own continual need for spiritual strength - Do it?
"And what are we, but sheep or goats ---"