

after inculcating by this symbolical action, the needful lesson of humility and holiness, has resumed his place at table. Then, having addressed the twelve as his servants who were to go forth in his name to their fellow-men, he has just added,—as the first advance towards the unveiling of Judas,—a mysterious hint of treachery: “I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.” At this point our exposition commences.

VER. 21.—“When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, That one of you shall betray me.”

The mysterious words previously quoted, “I speak not of you all,” would doubtless fill the disciples with amazement; and they would fix their eyes inquiringly upon Jesus,—What do we hear? Are we to understand that any of our number can possibly prove treacherous? Speak, Lord, and tell us that we are mistaken, or have misinterpreted your words. One only of the company would not share such feelings. Jesus, on his part, was unable to suppress his emotions. He was *troubled in spirit*, visibly agitated. To his sensitive human breast, it was painful to be obliged to make the declaration. Yet, for what he had in view, it was necessary that it should be made. He, therefore, announced explicitly (keen as was the pang which he felt in doing so) that one of those at table should betray him.

Why did he make this announcement? One reason was, that when the event came to pass, according to his prediction, the faith of the disciples might be confirmed. But he had, besides, an immediate and more profound design, the perception of which is indispensable to the understanding of what follows. This was the last occasion on which he was to be with his disciples before his death.