

Sermon outline and notes:

© Dr. Stephen Felker, Pastor

[Swift Creek Baptist Church.com](http://SwiftCreekBaptistChurch.com), 18510 Branders Bridge Rd., Colonial Heights, VA 23834

7/25/10

Mark 14:10-11, 17-21, 43-46 “The Betrayal”

Intro. I want us to think this morning about the subject of The Betrayal of Jesus. Now there are several names that have gone down in infamy: Cain, Jezebel, Benedict Arnold, Hitler, and Stalin, just to name a few. But none has excelled Judas Iscariot as a name of scorn and derision.

Now Judas was a wonderful name. It means “praise.” But because of what Judas did, hardly anyone uses that name anymore. His actions ruined an otherwise good name. Judas committed the most despicable act that any man has ever committed, in my opinion. He betrayed the best man that has ever lived. He betrayed the Son of God!

Now when I was looking at this passage of Scripture, one thing that stands out is the fact that 3 times Judas is identified as “one of the 12.” He spent much time with Jesus, eating with Him, hearing Him teach, and seeing His miracles. Yet, Judas never truly came to trust Christ as Savior, in spite of all the spiritual advantages that he had. None of the blessings that Judas was exposed to seemed to have had any spiritual effect upon him. It is like watering a dead stick. Because there is no life in the stick, it will not sprout out with any limbs and leaves.

So Judas should serve as a warning to people today who profess the name of Jesus. He illustrates the fact that you can profess Christ, do good works, become knowledgeable of the teachings of Christ, be closely associated with true believers, and yet never come to true faith in Jesus Christ. If ever there was a man who at one time looked like a true disciple of Christ, that man was Judas. He was so like his fellow disciples that they did not suspect him of being a traitor. Yet, he became one, and had a miserable ending.

This morning I want you to be honest with God. Are you a true disciple of Jesus? Could you betray Jesus, or at least turn away from Him, and from His church? Could you betray someone else, who supposes that you are loyal to them?

So let’s consider this story about Judas together. As we follow the story, let see first of all:

I. A BETRAYAL PLANNED

We read in vv.10-11, “Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray¹ Him to them. And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. So he sought how he might conveniently betray Him.” This decision to betray Jesus did not happen overnight. You need to understand the background to what happened here.

Judas had been attracted to Jesus from the start, because he believed that Jesus would become King, overthrow the Romans, and that he would rule and reign with Jesus. After all, Jesus had the ability to become a powerful king. What verbal skills He had! What power He had! So Judas was thrilled when Jesus invited him to become one of His 12 apostles. And to His twelve privileged followers Jesus had promised dazzling rewards (Mark 10:29, 30), and even thrones (Matt. 19:28). Judas must have listened with rapt attention to words such as these.

¹ “Betray” is probably too strong a translation. This word (*paradidomi*) simply means “to deliver over to.” This same word is used in Romans 8:32, “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”

But in the last few months of Jesus' ministry, Judas noticed a change. Jesus started talking about a cross instead of a crown. On several occasions Jesus predicted His imminent rejection and violent death (Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:34). So instead of ruling with Jesus over Israel and the world, Jesus was demanding that His disciples take up their cross. And Jesus was clearly demonstrating that He would not be the kind of King Judas was hoping for. So thoughts of betrayal were conceived in the wicked heart of Judas. Now let's see what brought it to a head. First of all, we see:

A. The Commencement of this Plan - In the first 9 verses of this chapter we see the straw that broke the camel's back in his decision to betray Jesus. There we read of the lovely deed that Mary did for our Lord. She poured out very expensive perfume upon Jesus. Judas spoke out against this so-called waste, but Jesus defended Mary & stung Judas with a rebuke. Judas was the Treasurer, and John tells us Judas was a thief (12:6). Actually, he wanted the cost of that perfumed ointment in the Treasury so that he could steal from it. So Judas had a problem with the love of money. He had a calculator for a brain, dollar signs for eyes, and deposit boxes for hands! That was one factor in his decision to betray Jesus. So Matthew reports that he went to the chief priests & asked, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" (26:15).

Jesus had warned against covetousness. Judas had heard Jesus say that a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions (Luke 12:15). Jesus had much more to say about our attitude toward money, but it seems that it just didn't sink in with Judas. Basic to everything else was this disciple's utterly selfish heart as contrasted with Christ's infinitely unselfish and outgoing heart. The Bible warns that the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil (I Tim. 6:10). Let us remember our Lord's caution to "be on guard against all kinds of greed" (Lk. 12:15). It is a sin that spreads like gangrene.

Let me point out another problem that Judas had that day. In v.8 Jesus had even referred to His burial, as if it were a matter pertaining to the immediate future. Judas was deeply disturbed by this language, and he drew the conclusion that to remain with Jesus meant to go down in defeat with Him.²

There are many people who are like Judas in some respects. They profess faith in Christ, join the church, and start doing things that Christians are supposed to do. They want to go to heaven and have their sins forgiven. They suppose that joining a church and having a superficial relationship with Christ will bring healing from their sicknesses, improvement of their finances, and so forth. And so when things don't go like they expect, they drop out, and even do things to bring reproach upon the name of Christ. There are a lot of people who will follow Jesus as long as it is convenient, as long as it is comfortable, as long as there are earthly rewards from following Jesus. But when things don't turn out as they expect, they turn away from Christ and His church like Judas did. Do you know of anyone like Judas in this respect?

B. The Culmination of this Plan - Now Judas has determined to betray Jesus. So:

1. He Contacts the Leaders - In v.10 we read, "Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them." He goes to the leaders of Israel, and tells them what he is willing to do. This delighted them! Now they didn't want to kill Jesus during the Passover feast, but when one of Jesus' own disciples offered to help them arrest Jesus, it was too good to be true in their eyes. The chief priests would not have allowed their golden opportunity to pass by unheeded.

² Some suggest that his motive was to attempt to force Jesus to take decisive action against his enemies.

2. He Contracts a Price – In v.11 we read that they “promised to give him money.” Matthew indicates that they also negotiated on the price. Perhaps after some haggling, they agreed to give Judas 30 pieces of silver (26:15). These pieces were tantamount in value to Hebrew shekels. That was not a very large amount of money, but it was not insignificant. It was the price of a slave. But even so, that was music to his ears. Did Judas think that Jesus was worth no more than 30 pieces of silver?

But lest you criticize him, let me ask, “How much is Jesus worth to you?” They say every man has his price. What would it take to get you to turn your back on Jesus? Some folks have sold out to the devil for a pitiful amount. It seems obvious to me that Jesus isn’t worth much too many people. They will reject Christ because they value their sin more than Jesus. Some will sell out to Jesus for one night of an immoral thrill. Others will sell out to close some shady business deal. But God has some people who are quite different. In Hebrews 11:26 we read that Moses forsook Egypt “esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.”

Afterward the traitor watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to these men in the absence of a crowd (Lk. 22:6). Now let’s move down a few verses & see the next scene of our story:

II. THE BETRAYAL PREDICTED

Jesus and His disciples gathered for the last supper in an upper room. Not long after they began the meal, Jesus startled them with the prediction of v.18, “Assuredly, I say to you, one of you who eats with Me will betray Me.” Of course, we know who it was, but the disciples did not. In fact, “one of you” came as a bolt from the blue! It was a stunning blow. Why, it was almost unbelievable. Yet, the One who never told an untruth was saying this; so it must be true.

However, this should not have come as a total surprise. Even Scripture predicted that the betrayal would take place. The psalmist had written, “Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me” (41:9).³ Furthermore, Jesus had predicted on at least 2 previous occasions that someone would deliver Him over to the chief priests (9:31; 10:33). What is new is the prediction that one of His own close disciples would be the one to do such a dastardly deed!

Now notice with me two thoughts about this prediction. Let’s see first of all:

A. The Reasons for the Prediction - Why did Jesus give this prediction? First, He gave the prediction to show that He was fully in control of the situation. He was not being taken by surprise. Secondly, He was giving Judas an opportunity to repent. Jesus did everything possible to awaken the conscience of Judas. Let Judas ponder what he is doing. The revelation of this detailed knowledge should have put Judas on guard even at this late hour to return those thirty pieces of silver! Thirdly, to warn of the consequences if he doesn’t. God graciously warns before He judges. So in v.21 Jesus warned, “It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

Of course, you cannot change the fact of your birth, or how you began your life. But you can change how your life’s destiny. Jesus warned in Luke 13:3, “unless you repent you will all likewise perish.” If you never repent of your sin & trust in Christ as Savior, you will surely perish

³ Psa. 55:12-13 also says, “For it is not an enemy who reproaches me; then I could bear it. Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me; Then I could hide from him. But it was you, a man my equal, my companion and my acquaintance.”

in a place called hell. If that happens to you, what Christ said to Judas could be said of you. It would have been far better if you had not been born!

Next, notice:

B. The Responses to the Prediction - Christ's shocking announcement evoked several responses. In v.19 we read, "And they began to be sorrowful, and to say to Him one by one, 'Is it I?' And another said, 'Is it I?'" The first was a question of wholesome self-distrust, yet in the original, the question expects a negative answer, "It is not I, is it?" Yet, they were filled with misgiving. All of them knew they were capable of doing it. At some point, probably after considerable hesitation, Judas' reaction was a question of loathsome hypocrisy, "Surely, not I, Rabbi?"

If you have not discovered that you have a depraved sin nature, you haven't learned the truth about yourself. The Bible teaches that the human heart is capable of doing great evil. There are many people in prison today who never would have thought that they would ever do what they did. That is why the Bible says, "If any man thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor. 10:12). We should not be overconfident when we hear the warnings of the Word of God. We should not rely upon our own strength to resist temptation. We should put our trust in the Lord. It is only by the grace of God, the power of God, and other factors that we may resist temptation, & remain faithful to the Lord.

It is clear that Jesus did not immediately allay the fear of these men or cure their self-distrust. Nor did He at once satisfy their suddenly aroused curiosity, for He wanted to give Judas every opportunity to turn from sin. Even what He said in v.20 did not necessarily make it clear to them who would betray him, "It is one of the twelve, who dips with Me in the dish." Were not several disciples close enough to dip into the bowl⁴ with Jesus? Judas surely was not the only one. But while that statement could help identify the betrayer, the main point was to emphasize the base character of the betrayer's deed. In the East, to break bread with someone means to enter into a pact of friendship and mutual trust. It would be an act of the basest treachery to break bread and then betray your host.

Are you sure that you wouldn't sell the Lord out under certain circumstances? How many times have you in a sense betrayed the Lord by yielding to temptation at work, at school, or around certain people? Hebrews 6:6 speaks of those who "crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame."

We know that Judas did not repent when given the opportunity. Even prior to this Jesus was reaching out to Judas. He placed him in a place of honor near to himself at the table (John 13:23). They shared a dish of food together. Can you imagine how Judas must have felt? What makes his guilt all the heavier is the fact that he not only planned the treachery and took the next step but even now, in spite of Christ's impressive warnings, goes right ahead.

So we seen the betrayal planned, and the betrayal predicted. Now let us see:

III. THE BETRAYAL PERPETRATED

In John's gospel we read that Satan put it in Judas' heart to betray Jesus. Satan is always looking for someone to influence for evil. And the black heart of Judas was prime territory. It is a short step from satanic suggestion to satanic possession.⁵ At some point Jesus leaned over to Judas

⁴ Typically, it was filled with a broth consisting of mashed fruit, water, spices, and wine or vinegar.

⁵ Luke 22:3 and John 13:2, 27 indicate that he was demon possessed.

and said, “What you do, do quickly.” Then John 13:30 says, “So, having taken the morsel, Judas went out immediately, and it was night.” It was not only night physically, but there was darkness in the heart & soul of Judas.

Where did he go? He must have hurried off to the chief priests, the men who had hired him. Judas must have rushed out to them and said, “Jesus knows of our plot. You’d better go get Him *now*. He may leave town. Act quickly, preferably tonight, when no crowds are around. Don’t delay!” Even though according to v.2 they did not want to arrest Jesus during the Passover, they decided to proceed with their plot that very night. So they got the officers immediately. It was God’s plan that Jesus die during Passover, for He is the Lamb of God, sent to save us from our sin! So let’s see the plan unfold. First of all:

A. Judas Arrived with the Soldiers – Mark reports in v.43, “And immediately, while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.” Judas did not know for certain where the group might have gone after leaving the Upper Room, but since he knew that Gethsemane was the place often visited by the Master and His disciples (John 18:2), the traitor was able to make a good guess, one that proved to be correct.

Judas led the company of armed men, consisting of temple police, who were Levites (14:49; cf. Luke 22:52; John 18:3). There was also a detachment of Roman soldiers, together with their commander (John 18:3, 12). John 18:3 mentions a “cohort”, which literally would have been 600 men. When there was always danger of Jewish rebellion, the requested legionaries were quickly obtained. What a strange coalition: Jewish police & Roman soldiers! Furthermore, we see that the force that had been commissioned to capture Jesus was well equipped. The men carried swords and clubs. The clubs we may assume were in the hands of the temple police. The Roman soldiers carried the swords. The leaders of Israel sent such a large group of armed men out of fear that Jesus might try to escape, or out of concern that Jesus and His disciples might try to resist arrest. This group was led by Judas (v.43a), and some of the religious leaders of Israel (v.47).

Can you imagine how Jesus felt as He saw this group approaching? It was indescribable suffering to think that the men who were supposed to be leaders in Israel, highly religious and devout, had sent this force instead of welcoming Jesus as the long-expected Messiah.

Note that John 18:5 says, “And Judas stood with them.” Who do you stand with today? Do you take your stand with Jesus and the people of God, or with the people of this world? In the battle for morality and decency, where do you stand? At the close of the message today, I will give you the opportunity to take a stand with Jesus by confessing Him as your Savior, or by joining His church.

Something else we see is this:

B. Judas Agreed on a Signal – In vv.44-45 we read, “Now His betrayer had given them a signal, saying, ‘Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead Him away safely.’ As soon as He had come, immediately he went up to Him and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, Rabbi!’ and kissed Him.” In the darkness of the night, and in the shadow of the Olive trees under a full moon, Judas has worked out a sign to identify Jesus to the arresting soldiers. He would use a kiss, a customary greeting in that culture. The word translated “kissed” (*kataphileo*) in v.45 is an intensive form of the word used in v.44 (*phileo*) and could indicate more than just a peck on the cheek! In Luke 22:48 Jesus said, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of man with a kiss?” Can you imagine that? A gesture of love and affection was turned into an act of betrayal. What a despicable act! The venom

of the serpent, the devil, was in that kiss. He was a shameless, wretched turncoat, who for the paltry sum of thirty pieces of silver was delivering over to the enemy the greatest Benefactor whose feet ever trod this earth. Oh, what a hypocrite Judas was!

Have you ever been betrayed by someone close to you? Perhaps you were betrayed by a spouse, or your own child or parent? Or perhaps you were betrayed by a friend, or co-worker. If so, you know how terrible it feels to be betrayed. Well Judas serves as a warning against the terrible sin of betrayal. May God help us to be faithful & loyal to Jesus. I'm afraid that quite a few people are more loyal to a sport's team than the Lord! May we be faithful & loyal to our family, our friends, & certainly our church family.

Well, betraying your family & friends will have consequences. But the most serious consequences await those who betray the Lord Jesus. So let's see last of all:

C. Judas Attained a Sordid End - Now at this point Mark lets the story of Judas end, for he wanted to go on to other matters. But God did not let it end here in all of the gospels. The end of Judas should serve as a warning to everyone. You see, after this incident Judas became very bothered in his conscience. Now keep in mind that God has created us with a conscience. Even Judas had a conscience.

A certain man was tried for murder and he was found not guilty. But some time later that man wrote to his lawyer these words, "You saved me from the electric chair, but you cannot save me from my conscience."

So as a result of a troubled conscience, the Scripture says that Judas "repented" (Mt. 27:3). But the word used is not the one for a true change of mind about sin, but it is the word that refers to nothing more than sorrowful regret. He was upset that things turned out the way they did. So he sought to return the money. However, they refused to accept the money, for it was blood money. So Judas just flung the money into the temple and left. Then, he went out to a certain field, and proceeded to hang himself for the terrible deed he had done. But somehow the rope must have broken, or someone cut him down. He fell headlong and burst open in the middle. His entrails gushed out. What a terrible way to end a life that could have been far different.

Well you say, "That was the end of Judas." But that was not the end! The Bible says he went to his own place (Acts 1:25). He soon lifted up his eyes in hell, and forever he has agonized over the fact that he betrayed the Son of God!

Conclusion: I realize that some would be offended to suggest that there is any similarity between Judas and people today. And yes, in some respects, that is very true. Yet Judas was lost for the same reason millions are lost today; he did not repent of his sins and believe on Jesus Christ. At one time he believed in Jesus as a King, but he never believed in Him as his personal Savior. Judas shows us that knowledge, gifts, professing Christ, privileges, church membership, praying, and talking about religion are all useless things if our hearts are not converted. Make sure you are a true disciple. Make sure you are saved today.

Furthermore, to every believer here today, I want to challenge you to renew your commitment to be loyal & faithful to Christ, His church, your family, & your associates.

Sources: James A. Brooks, *New American Commentary: Mark* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1991); William Hendriksen, *New Testament Commentary: Mark* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1975); J. Vernon McGee, *Thru The Bible*, Vol. 4 (Pasadena, CA: Thru The Bible Radio, 1983); Larry Pierce, *Online Bible [CD-ROM]* (Ontario: Timnathserah Inc., 1996); J.C. Ryle (1816-1900), *Mark: Expository Thoughts on the Gospels* (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1993); Jerry Vines (sermon tape of 5/6/84); Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Diligent: Mark* (Wheaton: Victor Books,

1987). Other sources listed in the footnotes. Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from *The New King James Version* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1982). Nothing available from Maclaren.

Also see sources from parallel Scriptures: Mt. 26:1-5, 14-16, 21-25, 47-50; Luke 21: 37-22:6, 21-23, 47-51; John 13:21-30; 18:2-12.

ABOUT THESE SERMON NOTES

© Dr. Stephen Felker. These notes may be used and even shared for personal study or ministry, but not for commercial purposes. The author credits the sources listed above and footnotes for much of the content. Since Dr. Felker's sermons are generally preached without notes, the "live" recording of this sermon will be more completely in the author's own words. To obtain an audio recording of this message, you may send \$2 for each CD ordered, plus \$2 shipping & handling for each order mailed in. Up to 2 messages come on each CD. Make checks payable to Swift Creek Baptist Church, P.O. Box 235, Colonial Heights, VA 23834. His email address is S+Felker&2@aol.com (remove signs).