

**Announcements:**

- 1) Club 2:15 has started
- 2) Lawn Day next week (bounce house and picnic)
- 3) Evan preaching next Sunday
- 4) Evan and Ericka are engaged

## Me and Judas

### Mark 14:10-11

For most of us, when we hear the name Judas in relation to Jesus we think “The guy that betrayed Jesus”. He doesn’t rank real high in opinion of most people. He isn’t a popular fellow. He is the villain of the disciples. He is the one when asked about the 12 disciples, usually no one has anything good to say.

Betrayal is never a good thing to the one being betrayed. Put yourselves in Jesus’s shoes. How many of us in here have been betrayed at one time or another: a friend of your’s, maybe a family member stabs you in the back. Maybe they share something about you that was a secret just between you and them. Maybe they find a way to take something from you that is not theirs to take. Maybe you have been betrayed at your job. That other employee uses you, sabotages you, they do something to take that job promotion away from you. Maybe a friend at school cuts in on the girl or guy you like.

Betrayal is an act of treason. In many ways they are synonymous. To betray our country in the same manner as Judas betrayed Jesus, is considered treason. Treason is deserving of death according to the law of the land.

To betray is a very serious act. Betrayal becomes even more serious and personal when it is someone who you have loved, cared for, done mighty things for, made a better way for them; when you have sacrificed much for that person.

Judas’s betrayal towards Jesus was very personal. Judas had walked with Jesus for three years. Judas heard Jesus teach. Judas saw the miracles. He saw people get healed. He was there when Jesus turned the 5 loaves and 2 fish into enough food to feed well over 5,000 people. Judas was there when Jesus taught what is called the ‘Sermon on the

Mount'. Judas was called by Jesus to follow Him. He was discipled and couldn't have had a better role model. He was sent out with the other disciples, two by two, giving them authority to cast out demons, they healed the sick, and they told everyone they met to repent of their sins. Judas was with the right people. Judas heard the warnings in the parables and the strong warnings given to the religious leaders. Judas even did some of the right things. He was in the right place for his faith to be fostered into something great...and He was the one to betray Jesus.

Why do I share all this? Because 'Me and Judas' are very similar. (Like my use of English grammar?). And, you and Judas are very similar. We are all people that betray Jesus. Hopefully, though, we have recognized our betrayal and it has become less and less.

Judas knew what he was doing. Judas was willing to put himself and his wants in front of Jesus's. He put his will above Jesus's. Don't we do that? There are times you and I willfully disobey the things of scripture. There are times when we know better, and we still do it. Which betrayal is worse? The betrayal of a person that barely knows you or someone who intimately knows you? It becomes real easy sometimes for us long-term Christians to look at 'those non-believers', 'those heathens' and say how bad they are, and yet we have been followers of Jesus for more than three years and we still at times betray Jesus. Hypocrisy is the destroyer of the testimony we have in Christ Jesus. Hypocrisy is the destroyer of the heart that was once willing to follow Jesus.

You know what is most amazing to me in all this? Jesus still went to the cross for you and I, and Judas. Jesus still loved us. Even though we betrayed Him, His love for us was so great that Jesus said, "I know you will betray me, but I am still going to go and suffer for your sins. I will pay your debt. I will make right your wrongs. I will stand in the gap for you between God's justice and wrath against sin, and God's salvation. I will make it possible for you to be saved and have eternal life with God."

Jesus still showed love to Judas, even though Judas handed him over with a kiss of friendship and honor to those that had it in their heart to kill Jesus. Matthew 26:50 says, that Jesus called Judas, "Friend".

If you know the rest of the story Judas did not choose the forgiveness of Jesus. Judas did not repent. Judas felt sorrow and guilt for what he did

to Jesus evidenced in his giving the reward of 30 pieces back and saying he 'betrayed innocence'. But sorrow and guilt are not enough to save. Recognizing sin is not enough to save. Judas going and hanging himself kept him from God and is what I strongly believe sealed his fate to eternity in hell. But, not because of his action of suicide, but because it revealed his heart. His heart was unrepentant. Judas did not run towards God, but ran away from God. Judas tried to fix what he broke, and he could not do it. That is why the grace of God is so powerful and leaves us in awe, and is so hard to understand. That is why 1 Corinthians 5:18 and 21 and Ephesians 2:8 and 9 are so powerful.

1 Corinthians 5 says, "And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ...For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."

Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."

Salvation is not something we earn, it's something gifted to us. How do we receive the gift? By believing. By faith. By trusting in that gift. By recognizing our sin, but then turning to God for His forgiveness that He already poured out. But see, we have to do that. It's on the table ready for you to grab, but you have to turn towards God and say, "I want it." When that happens, God changes us from the inside out. He begins a good work in you. Jesus stands in the gap between God's justice against sin and God's salvation.

Too many of us say, "thanks for the gift", and then we try to make God happy or do good things to feel good about ourselves. We are about the gift and not the giver. We try to fix it, and we can't. That isn't trusting in Christ and that is a dangerous slippery slope to destruction. It is hypocrisy. Hypocrisy is being something you aren't. You aren't the fixer, you are the one to break it. Jesus is the only one to fix it.

This doesn't mean we don't do anything. We definitely have a role in the fight against sin. It does mean we aren't in charge and we don't do it the way we think it needs to be done. We deal with the sickness of sin according to God's prescribing. It's through prayer. It's through feeding upon and then digesting what God's Word says. You can see this in what

David said in Psalm 119 and his psalms of repentance. It's through choosing to apply what God's Word says. Doing those things opens us up to God's Spirit working in us. And, as God's Spirit works in us, the fruit of a changed life will show up as Galatians 5 talks about.

Did you catch that? We don't fix it. We just respond to what Jesus already did. We turn to God and He makes things right in us, through us, and for us. It's a process, so walk in the process, we trust the process, and love God with a thankful heart all throughout the process.

A logical question that may come up is this: "So, did Judas lose his salvation? He was called by Jesus to follow Him and you are saying that he is spending eternity in hell?" I believe scripture strongly points to the truth we don't lose our salvation. My response is this: I don't believe that Judas had salvation and for a few reasons.

First, Judas called Jesus Rabbi. Why does that matter? Judas never called Jesus 'Lord' as the other disciples did. There was a distance that seemed to be between Jesus and Judas. Judas seems to receive Jesus as a great teacher, someone to learn from, but doesn't make it personal by calling Him 'Lord'.

Second, when the other disciples seem to be making professions of faith, Judas doesn't. Peter calls Jesus "the Christ, Lord, Savior." Timothy says of Jesus, "My Lord and My God." While some of the disciples call Jesus 'Lord' at the supper in the upper room the night before Jesus death, Judas only calls Jesus "Rabbi." A rabbi was someone of importance, but they were a means to an end. The rabbi was a teacher, not the Messiah, nor a savior.

Third, it seems that, along with the others, Judas was part of the crowd that looked to Jesus as the one who would come as a military power to overthrow the oppressors of the Jews so they could be a great nation again. He doesn't seem to move past that as the rest of the disciples had.

Fourth, Judas was more about himself, his gain. When Mary poured the perfume on Jesus to anoint Him, John 12:5 records Judas saying, "That perfume was worth a year's wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor." That's a noble thought. But, catch what is said about him in verse 6 that reveals his inner character. "Not that he [Judas]

cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples’ money, he often stole some for himself.”

This brings up a point I would like to make. A heart that may know about Jesus, but is distant from Jesus, is a heart that will easily become entangled in sin. And the heart that is entangled in sin, when that sin is not put to death, instead kept hidden, is a heart opening itself up to giving in to more temptation and betraying its savior.

‘Me and Judas’ are the same. You and Judas are the same. But, what you do with it is what separates you and I from Judas. Do you turn towards God, or try and fix it yourself? Or, maybe you just ignore it, because you think ‘I asked Jesus to be my savior’ but you haven’t made him your Lord.

Let’s look at the text. Read Mark 14:10-11.

The leading priests were delighted. Why were they delighted? The answer is in verses 1 and 2. [Read]. The leading priests opportunity was now before them and it has come by way of one of Jesus’s own. Matthew 26 gives us more information about this betrayal.

Matthew adds the details of Judas asking “How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?” Matthew also adds that he was given 30 pieces of silver, which didn’t have much value at that time. This fits the prophecy of Zechariah 11:12. According to Exodus 21:32, thirty pieces of silver was the price of a slave that was accidentally gored by an axe. They didn’t see much value in Jesus’s life, and the hope was to put Him to death.

Context is everything. Mark gives us two book ends between verses 1 and 2, and 10 and 11. Mark sets up the stage by saying that the leaders were looking for a way to kill Jesus in verses 1 and 2, and then tells us that Judas would betray Jesus to these leaders in verses 10 and 11. But there is this story found in verses 3-9 of Mary sandwiched between the two. Mark does this often. Why? Because he is giving the reader understanding. Mark is helping us to see something. Mark is contrasting Mary and Judas. Mark is contrasting a life that loves Jesus and a life that loves itself.

Let’s briefly look at some of those contrasts:

Mary reveals a heart filled with love for Jesus. Her love for Him is so great she is willing to cross cultural lines in order to worship Him. Remember, as a woman, for her to come into the dinner of men was taboo and she did it anyways all to worship the one who saved her. Judas revealed a heart that was about personal gain.

Mary gave generously of what she had in service to Jesus. Judas was greedy. John 12:4-5 says, "But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray Him, said, "That perfume was worth a year's wages." Judas didn't get what Mary was doing. She was being used in service to Jesus. Her heart was one to worship Jesus and serve Him. He was consumed with greed, and greed doesn't leave room to serve God with a pure heart or truly worship, but with a heart that is about getting something in return.

Mary gave worth to Jesus...that is the essence of worship. When we worship, we are giving value to the thing we worship. Judas gave Jesus very little value, and gave money and his goals more value than Jesus. Therefore, Judas's worship was not Jesus, but his personal will and probably security.

Mary understood the greater good. The greater good is to put Jesus first. The greater good is to worship Jesus. Because when you do that, the rest of the pieces will begin to fall in place, right priorities will flow from it. Judas was about doing good as the priority, not worshipping Jesus. And when we are about doing good first, evil will soon find its way in to your heart. How? Because our eyes are not on the One who defines what truly is good. Our eyes are on what the world sees as good and so the world has the grip on our heart, not Jesus.

Mary would be remembered for her selfless act. Judas would be remember for his selfish act. Mary would be glorified and lifted up for years to come. Judas had his glory for a short time, but then would become a villain and enemy of Christ.

I would also like to contrast one more person with Judas. Later in Mark 14, this person is talked about. Mark tells of the Lord's supper and the leaving of Judas to go and betray Jesus to the leading priests. But then Mark tells of Peter's denial of Jesus. Jesus warned Peter that he would betray Jesus in this way and Peter said he would never do such a thing.

You and I are not much different than Peter. We will find ourselves every once in a while doing things we never intended or thought we would do all to save ourselves.

The second contrast I would like you to see is the response of Peter's betrayal compared to Judas's betrayal. Peter embraced his sorrow and guilt, but walked towards repentance. Judas embraced his sorrow and guilt, but tried to fix it and lost.

For the sake of time, I won't read all the verses speaking of Peter's denial, but you can read them later in Mark 14:66-72. Also, I won't read of Judas's response to his grief, but you can find it in Matthew 27:1-10.

However, verse 72 gives us some insight. It says, "Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me." And he broke down and wept." Jesus's words were brought to memory. Peter thought about what Jesus had said. Judas does not do this. Judas thought of himself and his sorrow and his wrong.

Looking at Peter's life, he may have been impulsive, but he came back to Jesus and surrendered to Jesus not only in word, but also in deed in all the times he was following Jesus. And you can see the growth throughout Peter's time with Jesus. With Judas, we don't see any growth nor hear of any humbling.

Looking at Peter's life after his denial, we see a man that even though he could lose his life, chose to follow Jesus all the way to death. He put himself into a place to be used by God. He wanted to be used by God. He preached the good news of Jesus. He loved Jesus so much, when they put him to death for preaching that good news, Peter asked to be crucified upside down because he was not worthy to be crucified in the same manner as Jesus. Judas didn't give his life to be used by God. Judas sat in his sin, in his betrayal and let the sorrow and grief bury him.

So, what does all this mean for us? Me and Judas are the same, but only as far as our sinful hearts are concerned. My hope is that you and I are the same as Peter in that we choose to turn to Christ and worship Him

alone and not give in to our guilt and shame. Jesus loves you, no matter what you have done and is giving you the free gift of salvation.

What can we learn from Judas's life?

First, is the importance of receiving Jesus's forgiveness.

Second, is the confessing our hidden sins to God. Sins that we keep hidden from God will take us down a path of destruction. Sin that is not dealt with opens the door for the enemy of God to use us for his destructive purposes and to keep us from experiencing God's blessing. Klaus Schilder said, "Satan doesn't gain a foothold in the lives of people who are walking in the light with Jesus. He only gains access when we open the door."

Third, Judas allowed greed to lead him. Judas's love for money was greater than his love for Jesus. We see that in comparing Mary and Judas. Jesus said we can't serve God and money. We can't have two masters. You will love one more than the other. It doesn't have to be love of just money. It can be inappropriate love of self; love of power; love of sex; love of another person; love of prestige and status; love of control; love of looking like you have it all together; the list can go on and on. 1 Timothy 6:9 says, "But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction." or "ruin and perdition". Judas is called the 'son of perdition'. We can put any of these loves in this verse.

We could say, "But people who long for prestige, power, control, etc fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction."

Fourth, we have been given a great opportunity and even great opportunities don't mean much unless they are received. Remember, Judas experienced what Jesus did, heard what Jesus said, and even did things Jesus asked of him. But, being in the ultimate environment isn't enough. We must choose to open the door to Jesus.

Fifth, hold on to your faith. Trust Jesus. Even when it is dark, trust. Scripture says that Peter 'wept bitterly' after remembering what Jesus said about him denying Jesus 3 times. Imagine the depths of despair and shame that Peter probably felt for turning his back on someone he just moments before was willing to die for. And then Jesus showed up.



What we can learn from Judas

Forgiveness to the one who betrayed us

1 peter 3:9. "Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing"