

JUDAS — A MIRROR OF US ALL
Next Steps Devotional Guide — John 13:18-30
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Sermon Series > The Gospel of John
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1. We looked at Judas today. Has it ever occurred to you that no one names their sons Judas or Benedict today — Benedict for Benedict Arnold. Both were traitors. One to their country, Benedict Arnold, and one to God, Judas. A couple of questions: who betrayed you one time and how did you handle it? Who have you betrayed and what have been the results?
2. Read John 13:17-20 in your Bible or sermon notes. Jesus at The Last Supper in the Upper Room, told His disciples that He knew that one of them was going to betray Him. Betrayal is not such a far fetched concept for any of us because betrayal is an extension of selfishness. Traitors are simply people who have to be first and many times, there aren't many things they won't do to get there. Where have you seen or experienced this, what were the consequences and how did you cope with it?
3. When we study the life of Judas, it does raise some red flags with questions:
 - (a) Question #1 > If Judas would betray Jesus, and Jesus knew it, why did Jesus call Judas? Have you ever wondered this? Jesus chose His disciples purposefully and sovereignly. Each of the disciples had a role to play based on their past, their personalities and their perspectives of who Jesus was. Read Mark 3:14-19 in your sermon notes or Bible. Why does this tell you Jesus called these specific 12 men to be His disciples?
 - i. Jesus didn't just see who they were then; He saw who they would be — all of the died as martyrs for Him later except for Judas, who committed suicide. Jesus looked past their current problems to their future potential, even for Judas. Why do you think Jesus would do this for Judas knowing when He called Judas, Judas would one day betray Him?
 - ii. Jesus knew that Thomas would doubt, Peter would deny, Judas would betray and in the end that all 12 would abandon Him. Knowing that, Jesus still called them. What is true of them, is true of you also. What does this mean to you and why?
 - (b) Question #2 > If Judas was chosen to ultimately serve as the fulfiller of prophetic Scripture, did Judas have a choice? The answer is YES. Why?
 - i. Read John 13:21-22 and Psalm 41:9 in your sermon notes or Bible. Now compare these. Jesus sent His disciples out in pairs to preach and do miracles. Judas was paired up with another disciple to do this. Why do you think Jesus did this?
 - ii. God created Adam and Eve knowing ahead of time they would still choose to sin and rebel, resulting in a fallen and broken world. But God still chose to that. God has chosen you knowing you are going to choose to sin also. What does this tell you about God and why?
 - (c) Question #3 > When it comes to Judas, what caught his eye about Jesus? Read John 6:61-64 in your sermon notes or Bible. Jesus knew from the beginning Judas would betray Him. Judas didn't know, but Jesus did. Speculate — what do you think caught Judas' eye about Jesus?
 - i. For 3 years Jesus invested, poured His life into and mentored Judas knowing Judas would betray Him. The Bible makes it clear that Judas was never a genuine disciple. He was false and hypocritical disciple. He only wanted what Jesus could give Him, not the other way around. Does this describe you in any way?
 - ii. There are people who say they are Christians who act like they are Christians who talk it, but the Lord knows that in there heart they are hypocrites, following Him only for what He will give them and as soon as God doesn't give them the life they wanted, they act like Judas will walk away from Him, revealing they had never accepted Him. Who have you see this happen to in life?
 - iii. When Jesus drops the bomb that one of His disciples would betray Him, none of them had a clue it was Judas. Read John 13:24 — that is the point. Why do you think they were clueless? On the outside, Judas looked like the model disciple, but on the inside, he was a traitor in the making. Why do you think we do not see a traitor until it is revealed?
4. I believe several things made Judas a traitor?
 - (a) First, Judas' lust for money. Read John 12:4-6 in your sermon notes or Bible. For years, Judas had been embezzling money from the ministry of Jesus. We see this today in all organizations, non-Christian and Christian. Judas was only interested in Jesus for how he could profit financially. Sound familiar? How would you recommend a Christian organization rebuild trust to its donors when news breaks of embezzlement?
 - (b) Second, Judas' affection for Jerusalem.
 - i. Judas is called Judas Iscariot. In Judaism, often, sons bear son or part of their father's name. Judas did not. Judas means "Jehovah or God leads." It is obvious his parents hoped Judas would fulfill the meaning of his name. He never did. Though in our culture, the meaning of names is not that significant, but is in a Jewish one. What does this tell you about Judas' beginnings?
 - ii. Iscariot is Greek word for the Hebrew word Kerioth. This was a town about 23 miles south of Jerusalem. The Jews in the south in Judea were prejudiced against Jews in the north, Galilee. 11 of the disciples were from Galilee; Judas is the only disciple from Judea. All the Jews in the Judea were looking for a

military and political Messiah who would restore the Davidic Dynasty, overthrow Rome and make Israel the world superpower. We see this in John 12:12 — read this in your sermon notes or Bible. This was what Judas hoped and dreamed all his life. Then Jesus comes along with unbelievable power claiming to God in human flesh, claiming to be the Messiah, but all his dream died when Jesus started talking about dying, not conquering. I think to Judas, Jesus was a huge disappointment. When has God disappointed you and how did you react?

- iii. Disappointment breeds bitterness and bitterness eventually breeds revenge and retaliation. If you doubt this, ask anyone who has gone through a bitter divorce. Jesus was not the Messiah Judas was hoping for in life. Is Jesus the Messiah you have hoped for in your life?

(c) Third, Judas' hatred of Rome.

- i. When we go back to John 12:4, there are some biblical scholars who think the Iscariot is related to the Latin term, sicarius. This was a designation of a radical violent Zealot group that despised and opposed Rome and Roman occupation violently. Members were patriots who were called "Sicarii," in honor of the Sica, the dagger they would conceal under the robes and used to ambush and kill Roman soldiers. These Sicarii were called God's Assassins. If Judas was part of an elite violent Jewish Zealot group called Sicarii or God's Assassins, we can see why he hated Rome so much just like Hamas hates Israel today. Such hatred was seen in American against Muslims and Arabs due to 911. So, we can relate. How?
- ii. Read John 13:21-25 in your sermon notes or Bible. We see that Peter leaned over to John and asked John if he knew who Jesus meant. John leans against Jesus and whispers, "Lord who is it?" Jesus whispered back to John His answer in John 13:26 — read this. If Jesus had said it any louder, all the disciples including Judas would have known. The only explanation for their continued asking, "Who is it Lord?" Implies they did not hear Jesus' answer to John. John does not state why he did not react or speak up. Why do you think this is the case?
- iii. When Jesus took the Matzah bread and dipped in the oil and bitter herbs and handed it to Judas, in a Jewish culture, that referred to the host, Jesus, giving food to an honored guest, Judas. Why do you think Jesus gave this impression at The Last Supper?
- iv. Read Luke 22:4-6 and Matthew 26:14-16 in your sermon notes or Bible. Judas lusted for money and he got it — 30 pieces of silver — the price to sell or buy a servant or a slave. Here is Judas' arrogance. He the servant thought he could see the Master, Jesus. By giving Judas the bread, Jesus was calling him out. Judas' heart must have been pounding. How do you think he held it together during The Last Supper?
- v. Read John 13:27-20 and Mark 14:21 and John 6:70-71 in your sermon notes or Bible. This is a horrible consequence of a man who was playing the devil. He became possessed by demonic influence. The Bible does not tell us if he ate the bread; only that he received it. Now take your Bible and read Mark 14:11, Luke 22:6, and Luke 22:39. What does this tell you about Judas?

- 5. We can learn several lessons from the life of Judas. First, we can hear God's truth all the time and not admit it's the truth.

(a) Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 in your sermon notes or Bible. "Inspired" is the Greek New Testament word [θεόπνευστος, theopneustos]. "Theo" means "God" and "pneustos" means breath or breathed out. "Pneustos" is from the root pneuma where we get our English word pneumonia. God breathed out for us His word. Since this is true, why do you think so many people hear this but will not admit it is the truth? Read John 8:32 in your sermon notes or Bible. People like to see Scripture as a buffet to pick and choose what they believe is truth? Where have you don't this in your life?

(b) Second, I can associate with Christ without accepting Christ. Read John 14:6, Acts 4:12 and John 10:9 in your sermon notes or Bible. Many people think if they are good, or follow the Golden Rule, or attend a church, that gets them into heaven. They associate without ever accepting Christ. We know the obvious danger in this. Who do you know is currently doing that and would you covenant to pray they would accept Christ?

(c) Third, I can hear the truth but never apply the truth. Read James 1:22-25 in your sermon notes or Bible. This tells us that it's possible too rebel against God's plans, when they violate our plans.

- 6. One main reason for Judas' betrayal of Jesus is his disappointment in Jesus. With a snap, He could have eliminated Rome and restored the Davidic Dynasty. But Jesus did not do that. I imagine you have prayed for God to heal someone and they still died. Where you disappointed in God? Do you think that God was simply sitting on His divine hands, not lifting them to do anything?

- 7. When it comes to experiencing disappointment with God, we have two options:

(a) First, I can be like Judas and let my disappointment with God lead to bitterness and be done with God. You probably know godly people who seemed to love the Lord with all their hearts do this. How would you help them get past that?

(b) Second, I can express my pain to God, willingly accept this pain as part of God's plan and purpose for my life with no explanation from God ever. You have a choice with disappointment with God: you can let it make you bitter or better. Judas let it make him bitter and the other 11 disciples chose to let it make them better. Why do you think the other 11 disciples chose option #2? Will you?

(c) Read Philippians 2:6-8 in your sermon notes or Bible. Judas chose to mirror the Sacarii. We can choose to mirror Jesus based on Philippians 2:6-8. How?

(d) Judas is a mirror of us all. How have you been a mirror like Judas? How can you be a mirror like Jesus?