

Last Days of Jesus

Thursday | Day of Treachery | Matthew 26:14 – 16, 45 – 50, 27:3 – 5

Sermon Discussion Guide

March 22, 2020

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STUDY NOTES

Judas Iscariot. Judas Iscariot is never mentioned in Scripture without the notation that he was the one who betrayed Jesus.

Thirty Pieces of Silver. Judas received thirty pieces of silver, (a rather small amount) for betraying Jesus, while John's Gospel (12:6; 13:29) notes that Judas was the one who carried the money bag for the twelve disciples.



1. Do you ever wish you could erase words once written, or retrieve words once spoken? Describe.

In Matt's weekend message, he began his message by sharing that the Jewish religious leaders wished to find a way in which to destroy Jesus without provoking riots and disturbances. Now, through Judas, that way was presented to them. Why did Judas betray Jesus? There can be only three real reasons why Judas betrayed Jesus: 1) It may have been because of greed, 2) it may have been because of bitter hatred based on complete disillusionment, or 3) It may be that Judas never intended Jesus to die but to force Jesus' hand as the Messiah. Whichever reason you believe, we can never use Jesus for your own purpose as did Judas. As you read the story of Judas' betrayal, watch for lessons you can learn so you don't fall to the same trap in which Judas fell.

Read aloud the below passage from Matthew 26:14 – 16, 45 – 50; 27:3 – 5.

"Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?" And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him. From then on he began looking for a good opportunity to betray Jesus.

Then He came to the disciples and *said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!" While He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a large crowd with swords and clubs, who came from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he who was betraying Him gave them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him." Immediately Judas went to Jesus and said, "Hail, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. And Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you have come for." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.

Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to that yourself!" And he threw the pieces of silver into the temple sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself."

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2. What images does the word "betrayal" bring to mind?

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Returning the Pieces of Silver.

Judas took the money and flung it into the temple. The temple consisted of a series of courts each opening off the other. Judas in blind despair came into the court of the Gentiles, passed through it into the Court of the Women, passed through it into the court of the Israelites, beyond that he could not go. He had come to the barrier which shut off the Court of the Priests with the Temple itself at the far end of it. He called on them to take the money, but they would not. So, Judas flung it at them and went away and hanged himself.

Suicide of Judas. Recounting Judas' suicide is significant. In Acts 1:20, Peter references Psalm 69:35 and 109:8 which are prophecies related to the Messiah.



3. In the Scripture you just read, how did the meeting between Judas and the priests get started? (26:14)
4. What motives or feelings would prompt someone to betray a man like Jesus?
5. In what ways do we open ourselves up to Satan become vulnerable to the temptations that snagged Judas?
6. What is especially awful about the way Judas betrayed Jesus? (26:48 – 50)
7. How did Judas feel when he saw that Jesus had been condemned to die? (27:3)
8. What action did Judas take in an attempt to undo his crime? (27:3)
9. What actions do we take in an attempt to undo our sins?
10. How does it make you feel to realize that Judas apparently was at one time a very devoted follower of Jesus?
11. Judas did not guard his heart and became open to the influence of Satan. What are you putting into your heart currently? Does it help or hurt?
12. How can you avoid (or break out of) a downward spiral of sin, guilt, depression, more sin, greater guilt, deeper depression, etc.?
13. How can your small group pray for you this week?