

Mark 3 13-19j Judas

**Mark 3:16 Simon, to whom He gave the name Peter; 17 James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, "Sons of Thunder"; 18 Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Cananite; 19 and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. And they went into a house. (NKJV)**

This week is our final look at the 12 apostles. We look today at Judas Iscariot. As I said a few weeks ago, Judas's name was a perfectly good one. It means Jehovah Leads. That tells us something about what his parents may have expected for their child. They probably hoped for their son to follow Jehovah's leading.

The word Iscariot tells us the place that Judas came from. He probably came from Kerioth-hezron. That is Ish- From Kerioth- the town. This was a little town south of Judea. So Judas was the only apostle who was chosen from **outside of Galilee**. Since Judas was from outside, none of the disciples would have known much about him. They all probably knew a lot about each other. When people grow up with each other, it is difficult to hide what you really are. But an outsider chosen by Christ Himself would likely get the benefit of the doubt on most issues.

Judas's father was named Simon. (John 6:71) This was a very common name. Christ's call of Judas was not recorded. But it is clear in our text that Christ selected him.

We are going to cover a lot of scripture this morning to paint the picture of who Judas was.

Let's start here:

**John 6:60 Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this*, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?" 61 When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you? 62 *What* then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? 63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. 65 And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father." 66 From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.**

Okay, Christ had just said some dramatic things, some things that took away the fleshly motive for following Christ. He knew that He had a lot of people following Him for the wrong reason. So he was culling the herd.

**67** Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" **68** But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. **69** Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." **70** Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?" **71** He spoke of Judas Iscariot, *the son* of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve. (NKJV)

Ok, So Christ said this early in the book of John. It is obvious that he knew what Judas would do when he picked him. It was prophesied that this had to happen. Christ knew this and made his choices accordingly.

Here is one of the prophesies.

**Psalm 41:9** Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up *his* heel against me. (NKJV)

John 13:18 Christ quotes this

Here is another prophesy of the betrayer.

**Psalm 55:12** 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. **13** But *it was* you, a man my equal, My companion and my acquaintance. **14** We took sweet counsel together, *And* walked to the house of God in the throng. (NKJV)

Another prophesy is found in Zechariah.

**Zechariah 11:12** Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give *me* my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty *pieces* of silver. **13** And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"--that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty *pieces* of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter. (NKJV)

Matt 27:9-10 refers to this

So how does this work? Judas chose to follow Christ. He even stuck with Christ after a large number of followers deserted Christ. If you had asked Judas if he would ever betray Christ, it is likely that Judas would have said, no never! Judas was making choices. He probably thought of himself as a good follower. He probably thought of himself as a loyal person. When Judas heard Christ say what he said in John 6, he more than likely looked around with the rest of the 12 and wondered who this devil was. Judas was doing nothing here but following his own natural impulses and desires. He had a reason for following Christ, and for the time being, it seemed like a good reason. He probably expected Christ to perform according to Judas's wishes. He wanted Christ to take over the ruler-ship of the land, like any self-respecting lover of Israel would. And when that happened, Judas would reap the rewards he was after.

There is something to learn here. We have pointed out many times in this study that the disciples were just normal human beings. The thing to note here is that Judas is too. What Judas displays is **not** how evil a person can become. What he displays is how evil **we already are** by birth. Judas simply displays who his spiritual father is. He displays what religious, so called “Christian” people all over the globe display when God does not live up to their expectations. They choose self over Christ. And they betray Christ to have what it is **they really want**. There is not as big of a gap between the mindset of a person who **lives to please him or her self** and what **Judas did to Christ** as we would like to think. Judas made a decision to follow Christ.

Along with that, Christ made a decision to select Judas to be on His team. He made this choice fully knowing what Judas was. But we will see all through this story that Christ regarded Judas as being responsible for his actions. How can this be so? Someone had to betray Christ. This had to happen. So if Judas was chosen to be the one, how could Judas have avoided betraying Christ? How could he have not betrayed Christ? Wasn’t God sovereignly determining the actions of Judas? There is a quote by Spurgeon that is very fitting here.

He said: **If I find taught in one part of the Bible that everything is foreordained, that is true; and if I find, in another Scripture, that man is responsible for all his actions, that is true; and it is only my folly that leads me to imagine that these two truths can ever contradict each other. I do not believe that they can ever be welded into one upon any earthly anvil, but they certainly shall be one in eternity. They are two lines that are so nearly parallel, that the human mind which pursues them farthest will never discover that they converge, but they do converge, and they will meet somewhere in eternity, close to the throne of God, whence all truth doth spring.**

We cannot figure out how our wills mesh with the sovereignty of God. We only know it is true. We are completely responsible for everything we do. And God ordains, in some fashion, everything we do. We do not know how. But we are told that it is true.

So Judas was doing exactly what Judas wanted to do. And God was seeing to it that he did exactly what needed to be done. And at the end of the day Judas was morally responsible for his personal betrayal of Jesus Christ, an event that had to happen.

Now, we need to keep in mind that Judas was with Christ every day. He heard him preach. Places where the other disciples were convicted, places where they came face to face with their own sin, Judas somehow sidestepped his own moral condition. Judas was making choices. And they were bad choices. He was

following Christ for something that Christ was never going to do for him. And at some point, that was good enough reason in Judas's mind to do evil deed he did. We have already seen that the disciples all expected to get some kind of reward for what they were doing.

**Matthew 19:27** Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" **28** So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. **29** And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. **30** But many *who are* first will be last, and the last first. (NKJV)

We see this in another passage as well.

**Luke 18:28** Then Peter said, "See, we have left all and followed You." **29** So He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, **30** who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life." (NKJV)

Jesus had told all his disciples that there would be a payoff. But it was not the payoff of a political revolution. It was not the payoff of a here and now political kingdom. It was something much bigger and better. But it is only bigger and better to those who have a heart for it. This is much like the disappointment of those who are following Christ today with the belief that Jesus will give us health, wealth and happiness. If that is why we follow him, we will find ourselves in Judas's shoes when Christ fails to deliver as expected. Mike often said that the only reason to come to Christ is our sin. Any other reason will prove to be deceptive.

John 12 gives us some great insight into Judas.

**John 12:1** Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. **2** There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. **3** Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. **4** Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, **5** "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?"

Before we get too focused on Judas, we need to realize he was not alone in this sentiment. Matthew 26 tells us that **all the disciples** were saying this:

**Matthew 26:8** But when His disciples saw *it*, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? **9** For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to *the* poor." (NKJV)

I tend to forget that this was not just Judas saying this. But the difference is we know the motive Judas had in saying this. And it was not the same as the rest of the disciples.

John goes on....

**6** This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. **7** But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. **8** For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." **9** Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. **10** But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, **11** because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. (NKJV)

Evidently this truth about Judas was **not known** early on. Somehow they discovered that Judas was stealing from the till. So you can imagine how much Judas would have liked seeing the money spent on this perfume coming into the money box. This would have been a golden opportunity for a thief.

This must have been the straw that broke the camel's back for Judas. Because it was very soon after this event that Judas did the following.

Matthew tells us:

**Matthew 26:14** Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests **15** and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. **16** So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him. (NKJV)

Luke tells us:

**Luke 22:3** Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. **4** So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. **5** And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. **6** So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude. (NKJV)

Mark tells us:

**Mark 14:10** Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them. **11** And when they heard *it*, they were glad, and promised to give him money. So he sought how he might conveniently betray Him. (NKJV)

If you were to talk to Judas at this point, and if you could have gained his confidence you would have heard a lot of venting about how Christ was not living up to Judas's expectations. You would have heard from Judas how Judas felt betrayed by Christ. He gave Jesus a year and a half of his life, but Jesus, even with his supernatural ability, would not do the things needing done. He would not overthrow Rome. He would not put his followers in high political positions. He wouldn't even do the things that would win the respect and admiration of the people in high positions of the religious hierarchy.

Judas, by now, has convinced himself that anything that he does is warranted by the disappointment that Christ has proved to be to Judas.

Judas may have even thought that his best chance of accomplishing what he was after was to sell out Christ. He may have thought that when the Roman soldiers come to take Him, Christ would not allow such a thing. He would be forced into a war against the Roman government. This would have been a war that Christ could not lose. So he may have even justified his betrayal of Christ. He may have even ascribed noble motives to it.

Oh, don't we often our own camouflage of **our own** evil motives? Don't we so easily see our own actions in the best light, even though they are as wicked as can be? Doesn't our own self-centeredness distort our proper evaluation of ourselves? We so easily deflect the blame from what we do to what others have first done to us. And soon we are justified in ignoring even the worst of sins committed blatantly by us.

Flesh is always deceptive. Self focus and self love can fool even the smartest of people.

Let's look at more of Judas's story.

**John 13:1** Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. **2** And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, to betray Him, **3** Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, **4** rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. **5** After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel with which He was girded. **6** Then He came to Simon Peter. And *Peter* said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" **7** Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." **8** Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." **9** Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also *my hands and my head!*" **10** Jesus said to him, "He who is

**bathed needs only to wash *his* feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." 11 For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."**

There are a couple of things to notice here. First no one knew the betrayer was Judas. Judas worked so hard at **pretending to be a sheep** that no one could tell the difference but Christ. They simply had no idea. All of the resentment he had, all of the bitterness, all of the hatred, it was all hidden under a Christian façade. The second thing is that Judas had such a hard heart at this point that nothing would reach him. This amazing act of love done by the **Creator**, the one worthy of worship, had no effect on this **creature's** soul. Judas was unable to be reached by any love or kindness. The very sad thing is that this is not at all unusual. How many times do we see in scripture just how hard hearted we, as humans, can be. And O how smart we think we are. And O how justified we think our actions are. But they are nothing but sinful rebellion. We prove ourselves in that state to be utter fools.

**12 So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for *so* I am. 14 If I then, *your* Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16 Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. 18 I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, '*He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.*' 19 Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am *He*.** Jesus does not want his true disciples to be taken by surprise. He doesn't want them to think that Christ's plan has been overcome by an evil force set on stopping Him from doing what He intended to do. No, Christ wanted his disciples to know that this is what **had to happen**. The evil thing had to happen. The result of this evil had to happen. All of it was according to a plan.

**Mark 14:18 Now as they sat and ate, Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you who eats with Me will betray Me." 19 And they began to be sorrowful, and to say to Him one by one, "Is it I?" And another *said*, "Is it I?" 20 He answered and said to them, "*It is one of the twelve, who dips with Me in the dish.* 21 The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had never been born." (NKJV)**

Again we see the responsibility of man and the Sovereignty of God. Christ had to be betrayed. But the one who chooses to do it will face torment that he never counted on. It will be so hideous that the person would have been better off to never have been born. Christ had to be betrayed, but Judas was not forced to betray Him. It was because Judas freely chose to betray Christ that he would face the penalty for doing so.

**20 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me." 21 When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." 22 Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke. 23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. 24 Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke. 25 Then, leaning back on Jesus' breast, he said to Him, "Lord, who is it?" 26 Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, *the son of Simon.* 27 Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." 28 But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him. 29 For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, "Buy *those things* we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. 30 Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night. (NKJV)**

We simply must absorb how well many hypocrites will fit into the true family of believers. All of us have known people that we thought were true blue believers. But we find that they were actually wolves in sheep's clothing. We cannot be naïve about this. We have been warned too many times. We must remain alert. And we need to constantly build up each other and warn each other. The devil doesn't advertise his presence. He tries to cover it with a good story, a good act. And he is very good at it. Only two people in this group knew what Judas was capable of, Judas and Christ.

And here is the rest of the story.

**Matthew 26:47 And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people. 48 Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him." 49 Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. 50 But Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come?" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. (NKJV)**



At this point there is no longer any cover. Judas's pretention of love for Christ is seen for all that it is. It was self serving hatred for this man he said he loved. The fact that he betrays Christ with a kiss is simply a revelation of everything Judas has done up to this point. His pretention of love was just a cover for a despising seething disappointment and hatred.

Now, what happens to Judas? He pulled off his plan. He gained his selfish advantage from what he had done. His plan went off perfectly, without a hitch. He has his money. And he has seen Christ taken in by the Roman guard. He has seen all those other apostles scattered like birds on the road when a car comes by. Judas saw all the power he held. He saw what his plan had accomplished. How well did that sin satisfy him?

**Matthew 27:3** Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that Christ had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, **4** saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What *is that* to us? You see *to it!*" **5** Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself. **6** But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood." **7** And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. **8** Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. **9** Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "*And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, 10 and gave them for the potter's field, as the LORD directed me.*" (NKJV)

**Acts 1:18** (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. **19** And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.) (NKJV)

There is a whole month of sermon's worth of content in these two passages. The religious leaders could kill the Son of God with no conscience about it whatsoever, but they were too scrupulous to put blood money into their coffers. But that is not the point of this morning's focus.

Is it possible that Judas did not think that Christ would be condemned? Is it possible that Judas was trying to force Christ's hand to take over the Roman government's rule? Did he have a plan that, when he saw that it failed, it dawned on him what he had done? And then his human sense of right and wrong kicked in to the point he was in despair? I think that is very possible. Whatever the case, we know that Judas did not have true faith. He was remorseful. There can be no

doubt of that. But he was never repentant. He never called upon God for forgiveness. He wanted the religious leaders to give him some sense of closure. But they pretty much said that is not their problem. Judas was never a child of God. He had never submitted his heart to Christ. And as a result, he never did what Peter did. He never truly repented of his sin toward God and received forgiveness for his sin. So his human remorse, his human failure, drove him to a point of insanity. It tortured him to the point that taking his own life was better than living. He ended up like the pigs that he had seen that dove off the cliffs rather than live with demons inside of them.

What a sad story. What a sad end. What lost opportunity. What blatant pride and self love.

After having looked at this for a while, there is something that seems to me to be an unavoidable application. And it is about something that is alarmingly common, even in those who call themselves Christians, even in those who think they would never betray Christ.

It narrows down to the question, **what do you expect that God will do for you?** That was the source of Judas's problem. **What do you expect that God will do for you?**

Judas expected that Christ would do something that Christ had no intentions of doing. And when He did not fulfill Judas's expectation, Judas felt the right to do the evil thing that he did.

What do **you** expect from Christ?

We are given a lot of promises about what Christ will do. But if **what you expect** is something that Christ **has not promised**, you are in a great deal of danger.

Because when Christ does not fulfill your expectations, you will feel justified in your rebellion against Him.

What do you expect from Christ?

Do you expect him to make your earthly existence happy? That is dangerous. **His** earthly existence was not happy. Why should yours be?

Do you expect him to give you a spouse that will treat you the way you want to be treated? That is dangerous. Many people in scripture had spouses that were less than supportive. That is not something that is promised.

Do you expect that you will be spared personal tragedy? Really? Look at Christ's own mother. She watched him crucified at age 33. We are not promised to be spared from loved ones dying.

Our unbiblical, unrealistic expectations of God are hidden time bombs waiting to explode on our faith. They are dangerous. Judas's proved his own utter lack of faith.

We are given great and precious promises. But we must learn to be content with them. What God has in store for every believer is absolutely amazing. But for the

most part, it is not here and now. We must **trust Him** for it. Will **you** trust Him? Will you be faithful in the here and now, even though the here and now does not have much of a payoff in the here and now? Will you believe that Christ will make it worthwhile? Judas would not. Judas had no faith. He had an unrealistic expectation of Christ and that expectation drove him to the point of utter despair. Will you trust Christ? Will you face whatever it is you are facing in your life trusting that obeying Christ in that situation is the best thing you can do. Trusting Christ will pay off in the end, even if it never seems to pay off in this life? Had Judas had that kind of faith, he would not be the most despicable character in all of human history. Judas had lots of reasons for what he did. His story would probably be emotionally compelling. But it was simply incarnate evil. At the end of the story, Christ is worthy of your trust, your belief, your faith. Do we believe it? Will we **trust Him** enough to **obey Him** now?