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## *The Gospel of Matthew*

### *An Offer You'd Better Refuse*

*June 28, 2020*

**Sermon Text:** Matthew 26:14-25

**Scripture Reading:** John 13:21-30

I want to speak to you this morning about *Judas*. And specifically, I want us all to see that Satan is always at work trying to deceive us, making false promises to us, and trying to convince us to make a deal with him. Let's put it like this:

*No one has ever struck a deal with the devil and not paid an unexpected and high price for it in the end.*

Follow along as I read:

Matthew 26:14-25 ESV Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests (15) and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?"

And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. (16) And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

(17) Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" (18) He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" (19) And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

(20) When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. (21) And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." (22) And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" (23) He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. (24) The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." (25) Judas,

who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.”

Satan wants to make a deal with men and women and children. He makes offers to them. He makes promises to them – *all and always conditional of course on us doing something as part of the bargain*. You have seen the thing portrayed in movies and literature – someone selling their soul to the devil in return for great success or wealth or gaining some kind of powerful ability.

But it isn't just fiction. Satan really does work to deceitfully strike bargains with us – he tempts us with deals. It's been that way from the beginning:

Genesis 3:1-5 ESV Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” (2) And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, (3) but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” (4) But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. (5) For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be

opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Matthew 4:8-11 ESV Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. (9) And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” (10) Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’” (11) Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Satan's temptations often if not always come in the form of some “deal.” A bargain of some type. You do this and he will give you that. I don't know what benefit King David would have received from numbering Israel, but there must have been something enticing.

1 Chronicles 21:1 ESV Then Satan stood against Israel and incited David to number Israel.

The day comes though when it is time to pay the piper, as they say:

1 Chronicles 21:14 ESV So the LORD sent a pestilence on Israel, and 70,000 men of Israel fell.

Satan's motives of course are always poison apples.

It is in Judas however that we want to see this today. Let me read some more passages from the Gospels that fill in the blanks a bit more:

Luke 22:1-6 ESV Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. (2) And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death, for they feared the people. (3) **Then Satan entered into Judas** called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. (4) He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. (5) And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. (6) So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd.

John 6:70-71 ESV Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve? **And yet one of you is a devil.**" (71) He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

John 13:2 ESV **During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him,**

John 13:25-30 ESV So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" (26) Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. (27) **Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him.** Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." (28) Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. (29) Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. (30) So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

And of course we saw last week that Judas was a willful hypocrite:

John 12:4-6 ESV But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, (5) "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" (6) He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.

Judas would always be known as the traitor, the betrayer:

Matthew 26:46-50 ESV Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.” (47) While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. (48) Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.” (49) And he came up to Jesus at once and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” And he kissed him. (50) Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do.” Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him.

### OT Prophecy

Acts 1:16-20 ESV “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. (17) For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” (18) (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. (19) And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that

is, Field of Blood.) (20) “For it is written in the Book of Psalms, ““May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it”; and ““Let another take his office.’

And of course, Judas’ terrible end:

Matthew 27:3-5 ESV Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, (4) saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” They said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself.” (5) And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself.

I find it very telling that we have so many references here regarding Satan entering into Judas. Specifically to entice him to betray Jesus. We see here an interesting 3-part play going on:

- Judas’ own choices to steal money and to betray Jesus for money
- The devil’s work in tempting and leading Judas to betray Jesus
- The final Determiner of all things, the Lord’s sovereign decree that Judas would betray Him as part of

the divine plan that Christ go to the cross.

We will never mesh these elements together in a way that we can understand now, but we do know that the Bible clearly teaches us:

1. Satan is not an equal-opposite of God. He is a creature and a defeated foe, entirely under the authority of the Lord.
2. Judas is accountable for his sin and treachery. He cannot blame God or Satan as an excuse.
3. God decreed every detail and ordained that Judas would betray Christ.

You see the accountability of Judas here:

Matthew 26:24 ESV The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

As it is written – decreed by the Lord in eternity past. And yet woe to Judas for betraying Jesus. The divine election and yet the responsibility of the sinner.

### Satan and Judas

Now, what I wanted us to primarily consider this morning is this matter of Satan’s direct involvement with Judas. Even back as early as this:

John 6:70-71 ESV Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve? **And yet one of you is a devil.**” (71) He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

...we see that Jesus said Judas was a devil – which I presume is synonymous with Christ’s words to the Pharisees that they were of their father the devil. And during the Last Supper (Passover), Satan had already entered into Judas and “put it into the heart of Judas to betray” Christ. Satan “entered into him” is the way it is put.

Luke says (chapter 22) that after Satan entered into Judas-

(4) He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. (5) And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. (6) So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd.

This, I conclude, is what I am calling making a deal with the devil. That is

what Judas was doing. Let's consider 1) his motivation, and 2) his reward.

### Judas' Motivation for Betrayal

We know that Judas was never a genuine believer. He was a hypocrite from the beginning and his subsequent actions confirm it. He stole from the money chest which was intended for the poor. Consider that.

Here was Judas in privileged company with the Son of God. Judas was witness to the many powerful miracles of Jesus. Judas heard Jesus teach. He saw Jesus act. He was an object of Christ's kindness. He was in the fellowship of genuine followers of Christ. And yet...

Judas despised it all. Judas despised Christ. Judas was this:

Hebrews 6:4-6 ESV For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, (5) and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, (6) and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

Judas I think we can conclude had a remarkable sense of entitlement. He was entitled to that money in the need fund box. He was entitled to more. And apparently his resentment grew as he concluded he wasn't getting what he was entitled to.

Let's take to heart a very serious and sobering warning here. If anyone wants to be approached by the devil, if you want Satan to come along and offer you a deal, probably the quickest way to go about it is to walk in ongoing habitual sin. Of the 12, who did Satan enter into? The one who was stealing from the money box. The hypocrite. The fake Christian.

1 Peter 5:8 ESV Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

See it? Here is this vicious beast on the prowl. He's looking for a target. He's looking for a Judas. And he will find him.

How does Satan offer us a deal today? Well, he tempts us. He entices us. He dazzles us with all the glitz of the world. He makes us an offer and he hopes it is one we can't refuse. So we must be wise to his schemes and tactics:

2 Corinthians 2:11 ESV so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

Now, let's consider:

### Judas "Reward"

Judas was a thief. He stole money. He was greedy. And that is the very offer that the devil put before him, as Zechariah prophesied so long before:

Zechariah 11:12-13 ESV Then I said to them, "If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them." And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver. (13) Then the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD, to the potter.

Judas took his blood money.

Matthew 26:14-16 ESV Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests (15) and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. (16) And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

I don't know how much 30 pieces of silver was in that time. But it was certainly not a fortune or any huge sum. What did Judas really think he was getting out of this deal? We don't know. But surely by this time he would have hated Jesus. He was darkness and he could not stand the Light. I suppose he was similar in his thinking to one of these hate-filled murderers who kill their fellow workers or students or some other group of people that they hate and resent. Cain killed Abel simply because Abel was righteous and Cain was evil.

But Judas must have thought he would get a reward. Not only the money, but look at this:

John 18:2-3 ESV Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. (3) So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

See it? Judas is leading this group. He went and rounded them up! Suddenly he sees himself as the big man, and he goes up and betrays Jesus with a kiss. Judas wanted glory for himself and he hated the Lord for not giving it to him.

The devil had a very pliable tool in Judas.

And now, his real reward.

Matthew 27:3-5 ESV Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, (4) saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." (5) And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself.

This is the inevitable, unending end of every deal made with the devil. His promises always turn out to be lies and they lead to death. The enemy who seemed so friendly and generous now shows his true colors, just as the chief priests did. "What's that to us? You are on your own."

And do not miss this. Judas said:

*I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."*

And yet it was not repentance. Repentance is impossible for his kind. Judas crossed over into the realm of the

reprobate. He chose his sin. He chose to hate Christ and betray Him. He chose to accept Satan's lies of a reward. And in the end, *he knew it. He knew what he had done. He knew he betrayed the Son of God.* But it was too late. He went off to hell.

This is the payoff for any and all people who choose the devil and his lies, who choose the world and its ornaments, and thereby reject and betray Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 ESV The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, (10) and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. (11) Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, (12) in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Don't be fooled. Don't be a fool. Don't be a Judas.