

# **The Lost Apostle: Judas Iscariot**

## **Mark 14:10-11**

An English historian once observed, “History is indeed little more than the register of the crime, follies, and misfortunes of mankind.” The Bible is filled with crimes committed by the famous and infamous. The Bible is a history of the shortcomings and outright evil acts committed by human beings over many centuries.

Soon after Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit in the garden of Eden, Cain murdered his brother Abel. When God approached Cain about his despicable crime, Cain initially lied and asked sarcastically if he was his brother’s keeper.

Matthew Henry writes, “Cain flies in the face of God himself, and should have humbly confessed, “Am I not my brother’s murderer?””

God did not answer Cain directly, but his response suggests that we are indeed our brother's keepers. It was at that point that God presented Cain with the gravity of his sin and pronounced judgment.

In addition to Cain the murderer, another infamous name associated with great crime and wickedness in the Bible is Jezebel. The name Jezebel is a modern synonym for a treacherous, immoral woman, which is ironic given that the name actually means *chaste, free from carnal connection*.

Jezebel became Queen of Israel through a political arrangement between King Ahab and the Phoenician King. Upon becoming Queen, Jezebel took the role of loyal wife to ruthless extremes. She had Naboth murdered for his beautiful vineyard. She clung to her practice of Baal worship and imparted it to the Israelites, much to the consternation of the prophet Elijah, with whom she was constantly at odds throughout her husband's reign, threatening to kill him on at least one occasion. Jezebel persecuted and commanded the killing of Jehovah worshipers and prophets in I Kings 18, while Ahab refused to intervene.

But the name, perhaps, most synonymous with darkness and betrayal in the Bible is Judas Iscariot. Jesus called Judas the “son of perdition” in John 17:12. Judas is called a son of perdition because he had the character of a destroyer. He was a traitor and a murderer. And this shows that Christ, who knew the heart, regarded his character as that of a wicked man—one whose appropriate name was that of a son of perdition.

Judas was a traitor, a murderer, and also a thief. We read in John 12:4-6, “Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.”

Luke writes in Acts 1:16, “Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.”

This verse tells us that David wrote about Judas and his betrayal of Christ. Where do we find this in the Scripture? What did David have to say about Judas?

There are two place in particular that David writes about Judas.

Psalm 41:9, “Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.”

Psalm 55:12-13, “For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance.

David knew firsthand in his life how it felt to be betrayed by a friend. In II Samuel chapters 16 and 17, we have the story of the chief counselor of David Ahithophel.

Ahithophel later betrayed David. When Absalom rebelled against his father King David, Ahithophel, David's friend, betrayed David and went to Absalom and had a plan on how to kill David. In God's providence the plan didn't work and ultimately his plan was rejected.

So we read in II Sam 17:23, "And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulchre of his father."

David was someone who internalized things that happened to himself. The Holy Spirit then moved in David and he wrote about his experiences of betrayal and suffering in the Psalms. David, therefore, as an inspired author wrote not just about himself but about Christ.

As David wrote about his friend Ahithophel and his betrayal, the Holy Spirit shows us in the N.T. that this is a type of what would happen to our Lord Jesus Christ by one of his twelve apostles, Judas Iscariot.

Judas Iscariot has a lot to teach us. Has a lot to teach me. Have you ever been betrayed? How does it feel? What can we learn from Judas Iscariot this morning? An author writes, “Betrayal is the willful slaughter of hope.” My text is found in Mark 14:10-11 (read). The title of my message is, ***The Lost Apostle: Judas Iscariot.***

First I would like to look at the perpetrated act of Judas, the evil and crime he did. The betrayal of Judas. Secondly, I would like to look at our Savior and how he was betrayed and learn some important truths.

### I. A Warning to Us/The Dark Side of Christ’s Betrayal

Judas was the only one of the twelve apostles who was not from Galilee. He was a little different from everyone else.

He was the treasurer. We see here in Mark's Gospel that Judas is very concerned about money and the proper use of it. When Mary breaks the alabaster jar he is very concerned that 300 denari was wasted (equivalent to a year's wages) by being poured on the head of Jesus. That could have been used for the poor, and it would have done a lot of good. But Judas was stealing money from the offerings.

What does the betrayal of Judas say to us today?

**1. It is possible to befriend and betray Jesus at the same time.**

It is possible to call Jesus friend, to pray in the name of Jesus, to recite the creed, sing the hymns, and yet betray him.

A believer wrote a poem about this entitled "Why." The first stanza goes like this: "Why did it have to be a friend who chose to betray the Lord? Why did he use a kiss to show him; it is not what a kiss is for. Only a friend can betray a friend. A stranger has nothing to gain. Only a friend comes close enough to cause him that much pain."

Does this resonate with your heart as it does with mine?

Was Judas a friend? He followed the Lord. He was one of the twelve. He was close to Jesus. He performed miracles in the name of Jesus. He had dinner with Christ. Although he committed the greatest treason in the history of mankind, we read in Matthew 27:3-5, “Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and ( like Ahithophel) hanged himself.

Judas changed his mind. What made him change his mind? Perhaps he thought that Christ would not die. That Christ would work some miracle and set himself free.

Judas confessed “I have sinned.” Christ was innocent. Judas took his confession to the wrong place. To the Pharisees. And notice their cold hearted response: What is that to us? Who cares? We have accomplished what we wanted. To take and destroy Jesus of Nazareth.



Judas displays an affection of sorts for Jesus but it was too late for Judas. He was consumed by his sin.

There is a passage in Genesis 4:5-7 where God is dealing with a jealous and envious man named Cain and we read:

“But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

Sin will rule you or you will rule over sin.

This is a message that Judas did not get. Sin ruled in the heart of Judas. What ever affection and love was there in the heart of Judas was smothered by greed and was contorted.

How is it that a pastor can preach and teach and lead people to Jesus and at the same time have an affair with another woman? Because we all have the capacity to befriend him and betray him.

## **2. It is possible to have an exposure to Jesus and entrance of Satan at the same time.**

This is what happened to Judas. Judas was closer to Jesus than any one could get to him physically. At the Last Supper, Judas was there with Jesus. Judas was in that inner circle that was closest to Jesus. The Scripture tells us that while Judas was there around the table with Christ, Satan entered into Judas. Judas was now controlled by another because he had a whole in his heart, and Satan entered into that whole and took up residency.

We read in John 13:10-11, “Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.

Christ was speaking of Judas.

How was Judas unclean? John says he was a thief. He was obsessed with greed. Satan was moving through a whole in Judas’s heart.

Are there any wholes in your heart today? Any guilt that is eating at you? Any sin not confessed? If sin is not confessed they become festers on the human soul and entrance points for Satan.

Ephesians 6:11-12 exhorts us to put on the whole armor of God.

“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

Therefore, it is possible to come regularly to church and be exposed to the teachings of Jesus and at the same time hold on to sin.

What do we do about this?

**Let's move away from the dark side of Judas and look at the Good News!**

What we can learn from Jesus Christ and His betrayal?

You know what the betrayal of Jesus Christ is all about?

The betrayal of Christ is part of God's Plan for our salvation. He was betrayed so that sinners might be set free from the bondage of sin and misery.

We read in Isaiah 53:4-5, "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

One way of defining betrayal is "double crossed."

Jesus was double crossed. First, He was crucified on a cross; Romans nails pierced his flesh. Secondly, his very soul was pierced by the nails of betrayal from his friend.

Everyone one of them asked at the table "Is it I." Everyone with the exception of John would deny him. One would betray him. Another would blaspheme God! All save John, would run and flee, and be scattered.

“Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him (or crush him); he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin,” Isaiah 53:10.

All of our sins and griefs can be taken to Christ and laid at the foot of the Cross.

Christ can identify with your hurt and pain in a way that none of us can fathom. Who can compare their betrayal to the betrayal of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

Hebrews 4:15, “For we have not an **high priest** which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

What are we going to do with our guilt today?

Some of you have been betrayed? All of us have betrayed the Only Begotten Son of God.

You know what Judas did with it.

What I want you to see is what Peter did with it? Peter denied the Lord three times. He internalized his pain and kept away from Jesus until that moment when he was in the boat fishing. He sees the resurrected Lord Jesus on the shore and he just dives in and swims to Him as fast as he can. Peter went to Christ with his guilt and sin. And so we must do the same thing today.

Don't make the wretched choice to hang yourself in your guilt and sin. Jesus came into the world to cleanse us from our sins and to make us righteous. Let us swim by faith this morning to Christ for salvation.

In closing, Judas Iscariot was the lost Apostle. He was a murderer, a traitor, and a thief. He was guilty of the greatest crime in human history. He betrayed the Lord Jesus Christ. Tragically, Judas died in his sin and guilt. If you are here today and not trusting in Jesus Christ then you too will die in your sin and guilt. John Bunyan wrote, "One leak will sink a ship, and one sin will destroy a sinner." Repent of your sins and trust in Jesus Christ to save you and He will. Let us pray!