

GOOD FRIDAY: JUDAS

Luke 22:1-6

INTRO: Today we commemorate the day Jesus was crucified. Last Sunday, we commemorated Palm Sunday, the day they spread out Palm branches on the path leading into Jerusalem and Jesus rode the donkey on them and they hailed Him as King, shouting, "Hosanna." And last Sunday we considered that day in light of the life of Judas Iscariot. We considered the life of Judas Iscariot, from the time he ordained a disciple of Christ until Palm Sunday. We saw that he had been chosen by Christ to be one of His apostles. I recommended that he was a saved man, and that somewhere early in his ministry, something happened to him and he began to fall into unbelief.

When Jesus left Galilee to go to Jerusalem, where He will be crucified, Judas was with Him. He followed Him. He would have seen Zacchaeus saved, and seen the blind men healed as Jesus left the city. He would have heard the mother of James and John desire positions for her sons in the kingdom, which she expected to be set up very shortly.

We followed Jesus from Jericho to Bethany and saw that they made a special Sabbath meal in the house of Simon the leper. As I see it, this meal takes place on Friday evening. The Sabbath begins and they have this meal. I think that both Jesus and His disciples will have stayed there over the Sabbath. And it was here, at this meal, when a woman came and poured a large amount of perfume on Jesus, that we got a picture of the heart of Judas. He was upset that the perfume, which could have been put to much better use, even if it was given to feed the poor, was wasted by pouring it on Jesus.

We saw that the Scripture tells us that he said this, not because he cared for the poor, but because he was the treasurer and carried the bag. It is possible that while he posed as a disciple, he was becoming wealthy on money donated to Christ's ministry. Well, no doubt this indignation opened the door to his heart for Satan and he entered into Judas. And likely, Judas could not wait to get to Jerusalem to betray Jesus. He knows full well how badly the rich Jewish leaders want to get rid of Jesus.

By the way, I have spoken much about the internet. Go to John 12:6 (read). I believe last Sunday I touched on something very important. Have you ever heard of kleptomania? Listen to Mayo

Clinic regarding this thing 'shall we say, illness?'. They say, "Kleptomania... is the recurrent failure to resist urges to steal items that you generally don't really need and that usually have little value. Kleptomania is a serious mental health disorder that can cause much emotional pain to you and your loved ones if not treated." Now that is a bit of modern psychology. Now let me help modern psychology out a little by redefining their definition: "Kleptomania is a very serious soul disorder called the sin of stealing, and the recurrent failure to resist these urges will cause much grief to you and your loved ones. It is a very serious sin issue, and if this sin is not repented of it will take you to hell."

Now look at John 12:6 (read). It says Judas was a thief. And what is that? The original word for thief here is *kleptees*. Judas had a soul disease called *kleptomainia*. How do you overcome this sin? Repentance! Children, if you have trouble stealing, it could take you to hell. And the way to overcome this soul disease is not to go to some psychological councillor.

If you have trouble with stealing, and you want a cure, go to whomever you stole from and confess it. For all those who are listening, and those who will listen to this message who are troubled with stealing, don't tune me out. This message is especially for you. If you are troubled with stealing, and you do not learn to repent, that is confess to those you stole from, you are as hopelessly bound in a sin that will take you to hell as a drug addict.

Well, we go on. I expect that, that Palm Sunday morning, when the other disciples went to get the donkey for Jesus to ride into Jerusalem on, Judas hurried off to the Jewish leaders. And he made an agreement with them to betray Christ to them for 30 pieces of silver. And now he has a few days in which to carry out his plans. Could it be that he thought, "If I can get rid of Him, I can pull up that money I've stashed, and live happily ever after. If He dies at the hands of the Jewish leaders, I go off scot free to enjoy the money I've pilfered?" You see, maybe by this time he has a whole lot laid up somewhere, but he cannot very well spend his money as long as Jesus is alive. He has been acting the Christian for some time, and the best way out of this is to get rid of Jesus.

And so, this morning we pick up the story. Judas has to have the right time and place to carry out this thing. He cannot afford to get caught by the people and get himself killed, so it has to

be the right place and the right time. So Scripture says he waited for an opportune time.

But now Sunday has come and gone. Monday has come and gone. And tonight, Tuesday night, at sundown, the 14th of Nisan will start on the Lunar calendar, and thus the Passover. Jesus will commemorate the Passover on this night with His disciples. The Jews that held to the Solar calendar will commemorate it on the next night. So, if ever he is going to betray Jesus, it will have to be before tomorrow evening.

And so we are now on the day before Passover. Passover will start when the sun goes down for those Jews who held to the solar calendar. Tomorrow will be the day the Pharisees and a large part of Jewry will commemorate the Passover in the evening. You see, if Judas will earn his money and get rid of Jesus, his time is now very short now.

I. JUDAS AT THE LAST SUPPER

After Palm Sunday, we meet Judas again at what we know as 'The Last Supper'. It is the Passover meal. Now before we go to the last supper, let me mention what I have told you before. I have probably spent more time on a certain problem about this meal than any other topic in my studies. It is this: How could Jesus commemorate the Passover with His disciples one day, and die the next day when the lambs of the Passover were killed, and that was also the Passover? Can you have two Passovers in a row?

And I have concluded that the Jews were divided on whether the Passover was to be kept by the lunar calendar or the solar calendar, and on this year, Passover fell on the lunar calendar one day earlier than the solar Passover. And so, to overcome the strong Jewish disagreement, they were allowed to keep either day. However that may be, we know He commemorated the Passover with His disciples one evening, and the next evening, He died when the Passover lambs died, and he was buried before sundown.

Well, we go to Luke 22 (read 1-2). Before the Passover, the Jewish leaders are making plans how they might take Jesus. Well, fortunate for them, the devil was working on this too, and so was Judas. A few days earlier, when this woman poured the perfume on Jesus, Judas was angry. And I believe it is after that Luke 22:3 happens. It says, "Then Satan

entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve."

And so, as I see it, on Palm Sunday Judas heads to town and we have Luke 22:4-6 (read). After this some time passes, and no doubt Judas is getting anxious to get this deed done. Sunday goes by. Monday goes by. And now it is now Tuesday. And we now have Luke 22:7-13 (read).

Well, Judas could not very well skip out on this meal. They would have all known something was very wrong. And besides, maybe here he will get some idea of how to betray Jesus. Time is of essence now. And so Jesus and His disciples commemorate the Passover meal together and we read verses 14-23 (read).

Well, there is too much for us to cover here. But let us go now to John 13 (read 1-4). Again, we will skip some and go to 21-30 (read). There is an unforgettable statement that closes that passage and it always strikes me when I read it. When Jesus said to Judas, "What you do, do quickly", Judas immediately left. He knew now what he would do. And it says he went out immediately, and here are the striking words: "And it was night." Ah, yes, when you head out to do sin, it is night too.

II. JUDAS IN GETHSEMENE

We meet Jesus next in Gethsemane. Earlier we read that Judas went out and it was night. Satan had a busy night that night. I am not sure if Judas left before they had sung a hymn after the Passover meal, or before, but here Judas and the rest parted company. He has some business with the chief priests and heads there, but Jesus and His disciples are headed back towards Bethany, where Jesus had gone for night each of these evenings after Palm Sunday. But on the way, He stopped in Gethsemane. And there, you know the story, He came under huge agony as He worked everything through regarding taking on the sin of the world.

And so, we are told quite a lot about this time. What we are told from the time Jesus left the upper room until Judas came with soldiers is recorded in Matthew 26:30-35; Mark 14:26-31; Luke 22:31-38, John 13:31-17:26.

But let us now go to John 18. John 13:31-18:1 have taken place after Jesus left the upper room with His disciples. Jesus went to Gethsemane. So look at 18:1 (read). When Jesus is done praying there, in my calculations, we are somewhere between 12 midnight and 1 p.m.

Here is what I expect. After Judas left the last supper and headed out to get help to take Jesus until the time he gets to the mount of Olives, about 4 hours have passed. Since it is so late, he will have expected Jesus to be back in Bethany at Mary and Marth's home already. But Gethsemene is on the way and they would be going right by there.

Now look at verse 2 (read). I am not sure how close the original road to Bethany went by the Garden of Gethsemene, but no doubt it was reasonably close. And Judas, now having the devil residing within, also had demonic information to help what he already knew. I expect that he is on the way to Bethany. Gethsemene is on the slope facing Jerusalem, Bethany is over the Mount of Olives on the other side. You see, Judas' window of time to betray Christ before the Passover, is almost over and if he fails now, they might never get Him. And Judas plot would likely have been discovered if things waited until after Passover. It is now or never. And so, late as it is, I expect that he is planning to go to Bethany to Lazurus' place, haul Him out of bed, and have it done with.

But knowing about Gethsemene, he stops in there, and lo and behold, God must be in this thing, because there is Jesus! So look at verse 3 now (read). Now from here we can backtrack now to when it says, "And he went out, and it was night." I expect it has taken him all of four hours to make all the right contacts and to get the detachment of troops. You see, Judas had made an agreement with the Jewish spiritual leaders. And no doubt he went to them and no doubt they went to the Roman authorities.

We do not know on what trumped up charges they persuaded the Roman leaders, the political leaders of Jerusalem, to seek to arrest Jesus, but they managed. Let me add here; sin is blind. When the devil gets in, sin is destructive. So first we have a detachment of troops. Now look at 18:12 (read). Now look at the word 'captain'. It is the word 'chiliarch'. When it speaks of 1,000 years in the book of Revelation, it is the word chilioid. That is a thousand. A

'chiliarch' is the captain of a thousand. Did he have a thousand with him? Well we cannot be sure, but Matthew and Mark both say they were, and I quote, "...a great company with swords and staves..." Now look. We are talking about one man, with 12 disciples and 2 swords. Do you get the picture of overkill here? Not for Satan. Nothing can be left to chance.

But John 12:3 further says the officers from the chief priests were there. Now there were about 200 of these chief priests, I understand. And these officers were under the chief priests, but they executed the penalties. And so we have the secular army there and the spiritual judicial representatives gathered against Jesus here. And oh, yes, of course, we must not forget, the Pharisees were there. No doubt among these Pharisees were those that had met with the scathing words of Christ in Matthew 23 just a day or two ago. And, of course, they would not be left out of going after Christ, especially if they had a thousand soldiers with them. It is amazing how courageous some people are if they have a large enough group on their side.

Let's go to Matthew 26 to pick up some more of this story (read 47-49). We know at least part of what took place in Judas' life after he left the upper room. No doubt he first went to the Jewish leaders. They along with himself, were interested in killing Jesus. The Roman army had no interest in killing Christ. And the religious leaders, when they had talked all things through with Judas, and had concocted the story they would tell the Roman authorities, went to them with their story.

And maybe the Romans said, "Ok, you guys are the Jewish judicial folk, and if things are as bad as you say, we will have to take Him in for questioning. Now, how do we know who this guy is and where He is, and how will we know Him?" And the Jewish judicial folk say, "Well, we have a man here. He knows just how bad this guy, Jesus is. He was one of His disciples, and he has a few ideas on how to handle that." And Judas says, "I know this troublemaker quite well. I know the place He usually stays in Bethany, so I expect we may have a trip to Bethany. But there is a chance He will be in this certain place on the side of the Mount of Olives, because He often spends time in prayer with His followers there. They just commemorated the Passover, and

it may be that He is still there. So, no matter where we meet up with Him, when we get close to Him, I'll go to Him, He knows me and won't suspect anything, and I'll kiss Him so He won't suspect anything. So, whomever I kiss, that is the guy."

And so, now they come to Gethsemene, and lo and behold, Jesus is still there, late as it is. And maybe Judas thought, "Surely God is in this thing. This is the best. We don't even have to take Him from Mary and Martha's house." Well, Judas can't believe His good fortune. It couldn't be better. He won't have to battle crowds of people who believed Jesus to be a prophet. They can just nicely wrap this thing up while everybody is sleeping. And by the time everybody wakes up and the Jewish leaders have taken care of the job of disposing of Christ, Judas will be on his way to his stash of money.

And so, arms outstretched, he goes to Jesus and says, "Hail, Master, Master!" Hail? Hail nothing! Master? Master? Judas you deceptive liar! But do you know what Jesus said? Let me put the Gospels together and tell you what He said, "Judas! Friend! Why have you come? Do you betray Me with a kiss?"

Well, we must go back to John 18 for a little more information here. Look at verse 4, "Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, 'Whom are you seeking?'" Now I expect He is talking to the Jewish leaders because the next verse begins with the word 'they'. I would expect He should have asked the captain of the Roman army, but Jesus is speaking to more than one person. He knows who is responsible for what.

So verse 5 says, "They answered Him, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus said to them, 'I am He.' And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them." Judas, who has kissed Jesus has taken his place again with those who are against Christ. Now something amazing happens. Look at verse 6, "Now when He said to them, 'I am He,' they drew back and fell to the ground." I told you, sin is blind. Any person in his right mind should have said, "Just a minute. Who is this man really. What power! Is this really a bad man?"

And I suppose it took them a little time to recover and get up again. Can you just hear Satan hiss in Judas ear? So when they recovered themselves and dusted themselves off, it says, "Then He asked them again, 'Whom are you seeking?'" And we might say, "Don't you get it?" But they didn't, and so it says, "And they said, 'Jesus of Nazareth.'"

So verses 8-9 say, "I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way, that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, 'Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none.'"

So let me read from the harmony at this point: "Then came they, and they laid their hands on him, and took him. When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword? And then behold, one of them which were with Jesus that stood by, Simon Peter, having a sword, stretched out *his* hand and drew his sword and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. And Jesus answered and said, **Suffer ye thus far.** And he touched his ear, and healed him. Then said Jesus unto him, **Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it? Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?"**

III. JUDAS IN HIS GALLOWES

Our last point is Judas in his own gallows. We want to now consider Judas' end. Proverbs 13:15 says the way of transgressors is hard. Proverbs 29:1 says, "He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." Let me run over the events of this night this far, up until we meet Judas again in the story.

Say, from around 6 in the evening, which is the beginning of the day for the Jews, until nine in the evening was the last supper. Then, when Jesus and the disciples left the last supper until they got to the Garden of Gethsemene, and Jesus had talked a lot with the 11 disciples, it was

probably about 10 p.m. Then there followed 3 hours of prayer, so we are now at about 1:00 a.m.

Judas, on the other hand, left the last supper and went to make arrangements to take Jesus so he could fulfil his bargain with the Jewish leaders and earn his thirty pieces of silver. And he too arrives at Gethsemane about 1:00 a.m.

Now I do not know if Annas and Caiaphas are awake or have to be awakened. But maybe they have to wake up the former High Priest, Annas, and take Jesus to him. Then they have to wake up the present High Priest, Caiaphas, and take Jesus to him. This second trial is a long and difficult one. And while Jesus was before Caiaphas a rooster shook his head, and said, "Hey, its time to crow." And he crowed. Peter had just denied Christ for the third time, and the rooster reminded him of Jesus' words, and Peter went out and wept bitterly.

Where do you think Judas is? All the disciple had fled earlier on. But Peter later began following from a distance as they led Jesus from one place to the next. And Judas is lurking in the shadows too. He can't resist seeing how this thing will turn out. So go now to Matthew 27 (read 1-2). While Jesus is before Caiaphas, morning has come and the roosters are crowing. And when the religious leaders have come to their verdict, Jesus will now go before the Roman law.

And it is when the case moves from the religious leaders to the Roman law, that we meet Judas again so look at verses 3-4 (read). Now I want you to notice a very sad word in this passage. It says Judas was *remorseful*. The KJV says he repented. It has made the same mistake we often make. We mistake *remorse* for *repentance*. Go to 2 Corinthians 7 (read 8-10). You see, the word for repentance is *metanoia*, and the word for regret, as the NKJV correctly has it, is *metamelomai*. What Judas experienced was not repentance. It was *regret*.

I want to make a suggestion. We read a passage that told us at what time Satan entered Judas. I want to recommend to you that once the religious leaders have passed sentence, Satan, who controls religious leaders knows they will get their way and now Christ will surely be killed. I want to recommend that as soon as he is done using Judas, he drops

him like a filthy rag. And now Judas can think rationally again, and it dawns on him how hopeless his dream has been, and now indescribable regret fills his heart. It is so dark and so hopeless for him now that there, to him, remains but one thing to do.

Notice something else also, with regret came confession, "I have betrayed innocent blood." But the confession is too late! You see, the full realization of what he had done has now set in. Let me tell you this; Satan is a hard taskmaster. And when he is done using you, he will cast you off like a useless piece of junk. That you now feel remorse and are willing to confess means nothing to him. And let me say this, this regret and confession, now means nothing to God either. For Judas, there is one thing left: bear the consequences without remedy. Better to go to hell now, than to face people and have hell on earth; and end up in hell at any rate.

Let me show you yet something else. Look at the last part of verse 4. Those people who were so nice to him and even gave him money? They say, "What is that to us? Judas, go look after yourself!" You see, they now don't care either. They have what they wanted. You see, if you want to be their friends any longer, you have to stay on their wagon, and Judas is no longer on their wagon.

Now let me show you yet something else. When Judas was there to see Jesus condemned, he left there and went somewhere else. Where do you think he went? Look at the first part of verse 5, "Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple..." Where did he go? He went to the place where confession should be made, but it is too late. And I want you to see how valuable the 30 pieces of silver are. He cast them down! Maybe he offered the money to them and they wouldn't take it. You see, it was blood money! And these very religious leaders can kill somebody, but they won't use blood money. Why not? It's not right! You can't offer this kind of money in the temple! So he threw it down! Oh, blind sin. Why did you not tell me how much you would cost?

But that is not all. The rest of the verse says, he went and hanged himself. But that is not all. Oh, the way of transgressors is hard. Go to Acts 1. You see, later the Apostles had to replace Judas with another apostle. And I

want you to notice what Peter said about Judas when they were doing that. By the way, on that fateful night when the rooster crowed, Peter repented, as is evidenced by his life; and Judas regretted, as is evidenced by his life. But look now at verse 16-19 (read).

Now let me ask you, how could you hang yourself and fall headlong and burst open? Some think the rope or whatever he was using broke. It could be. Here is what I recommend. He hung himself. And later he was found hanging. And to take him down and bury him, somebody went and cut the rope, and that is when he fell headlong and burst open. One commentary says that the words, 'fell headlong' means he fell on his face. But the amazing thing is that he burst open.

Are you here this morning, and you have not yet found the riches of life in Christ? Do you know how sweet it is to find forgiveness of sin by repenting? Are you one of those who has trouble with stealing, or any other sin for that matter? Do you know how hard it is to confess? But let me tell you, it is sweet and easy in comparison to the way of transgressors in the end. There is no confession as hard as the way of transgressors.

Judas purchased a field with his sin, a cheap potter's field. If he actually had a stash of money, it had lost all its glory and hope. With the money Satan offered him to let Satan use him, a field was bought. It was a burial plot for Judas himself. Like Haman of old, who built a gallows to hang Mordecai, and ended up hanging from those same gallows himself; so Judas bought his own burial plot.

Go back to Matthew 27 (read 6-10). The wages of sin is death. The way of transgressors is hard. Sin: so blind; so deceiving; so cruel; so deadly. But I have not told you the worst of it yet. What I am about to tell you is not recorded in so many words. That day when Judas hung himself and he fell headlong, and his innards burst out, the worst had not yet begun. When he was dead he went to hell! And now, for almost 2,000 years now he has continued regretting his sin in the flames of hell, but without remedy.

CONCL: And so, let us be done with this subject. Certainly this is not an uplifting message, but then this day we call "Good Friday", is not an uplifting day. And, Judas, you had every

chance. You were a friend to Christ. You ministered with Him. Oh Judas, why did you give in to Satan? Why did you give in to stealing? And when you did, why did you not repent? And now it is too late, too late, too late.

But there is a warning in this message for us. No matter how close to the Lord we are, if we allow the devil room in our lives, He may take over altogether. And if he does, when he is done with us, and he casts us out as a worthless piece of Junk, he will say, "What is that to me? You see to it yourself!" May I ask, is the Lord speaking to someone this morning? Have you sins you have not taken care of? You are a candidate for Satan. Repent before it is too late. Today there is still hope for you.