



Betrayal vs Belief
Matthew 26-27; John 21
04/14/2019

Main Point

We will all fail Jesus, but He is ready to forgive when we are ready to repent.

INTRODUCTION

As a child, did you ever feel betrayed by a friend? What happened and how did you respond?

How do you view betrayal and forgiveness differently now than you did when you were a child?

In today's passage we will see Jesus interact with Judas who betrayed Him. An important question to ask at the beginning is who was Judas? When we read in the gospels about Judas, we see his name often listed at the last of the names of the disciples or with the description as, "the one who betrayed..." He was one of the disciples which meant that Jesus would have asked him to follow Him. He was the treasurer for the group, which meant that he would often purchase supplies for the group. He was susceptible to temptation as the Bible speaks in Luke about how the devil entered him. We often think that there is no way possible that we would ever be like Judas and yet often our words and actions reveal a heart that is just like Judas. We will see today that Judas forsook Jesus and eventually killed himself. We will all betray Jesus in some way, but it's important to remember that Jesus is ready to forgive when we are ready to repent.

UNDERSTANDING

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ Matthew 26:14-19

¹⁴ Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and said, "What are you willing to give me ^[a]to ^[b]betray Him to you?" And they weighed out thirty ^[c]pieces of silver to him. ¹⁶ From then on he began looking for a good opportunity to ^[d]betray ^[e]Jesus.

¹⁷ Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?" ¹⁸ And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is near; I am to keep the Passover at your house with My

disciples.”¹⁹ The disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover.

After the events of Matthew 26:6-13, where the woman anoints the body of Jesus using expensive perfume, Judas becomes enraged and goes to those looking for a way to arrest Jesus and offers to provide one for a fee (v. 15). The price is thirty silver coins, the significance of which Matthew will unpack in 27:9-10.

The extent of Judas’s treachery can scarcely be exaggerated. The Gospels supply no explanation for his motives. Perhaps most plausible is a view which interprets Judas as growing increasingly disenchanted with the type of Messiah Jesus is proving to be, a far cry from the nationalistic, military liberator the Jews hoped would free them from Roman tyranny. Questions about Judas’s prior spiritual state remain unanswerable; the Scriptures simply do not tell us. Rather than negotiating whether Judas was a believer or not, the point to see is that his perspective of Jesus reached the point where he was ready to do whatever it took to betray him.

When you look at the life of Judas, what were some of his core problems? (Greed, Power-hungry, he looked at the temporary instead of the eternal)

What was Judas’ response to Jesus being anointed by the woman with perfume? Has there ever been a time that you overreacted? How was your response similar (maybe not to point of betraying someone, but did you get angry and say or do something you regretted)?

From your personal experience, share about a time that you reacted without the big picture in mind? What are ways that we can focus on the temporal versus the eternal? How do our perspectives change when we keep focused on Christ versus our personal preferences?

When you think about the expectations that you have for your life, how can you become frustrated? How does keeping the gospel central to our lives help us to not overreact?

Sermon Notes

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ Matthew 26:20-25

²⁰ Now when evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples. ²¹ As they were eating, He said, “Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me.” ²² Being deeply grieved, they ^[u]each one began to say to Him, “Surely not I, Lord?” ²³ And He answered, “He who dipped his hand with Me in the bowl is the one who will betray Me. ²⁴ The Son of Man is to go, 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 ^[u]for that man if he had not been born.” ²⁵ And Judas, who was betraying Him, said, “Surely it is not I, Rabbi?” Jesus *said to him, “You have said it yourself.”

We do wonder how one walked with Jesus for approximately three years, heard His teachings, saw His miracles, and yet never showed fruits of belief. What we do know is that like the rich young ruler, Judas chose money rather than God. And yet he was there so close

to Jesus that it's hard to fathom his actions. As one statement has been made about Judas, "he went to betray Jesus with clean feet." This statement means that Judas was one of the disciples that Jesus cleaned his feet, a very intimate act, and yet he was still willing to go and betray Him for a minor amount of money.

Through all of these moments, Jesus knew God's plan for Him included His death and resurrection. This was God's means to provide atonement so He could forgive the sins of all who trust in His Son. Jesus was preparing the disciples for His crucifixion. He was also preparing them for their own personal betrayal: read verses 31-35 and 69-75.

In what ways are we like Judas? What can we learn about ourselves and our relationship with God through Judas?

We know more than Judas did, yet we constantly betray Jesus by disobeying Him. Why do we betray Jesus?

How was Jesus feeling about the impending betrayal? Does that surprise you? Why or why not?

Sermon Notes

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ Matthew 27:1-10 and John 21: 15-17

27:1-10

Now when morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus to put Him to death; ² and they bound Him, and led Him away and delivered Him to Pilate the governor.

³Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty ^[a]pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,⁴ saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to that yourself!" ⁵And he threw the pieces of silver into the temple sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself. ⁶The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the temple treasury, since it is the price of blood." ⁷And they conferred together and ^[b]with the money bought the Potter's Field as a burial place for strangers. ⁸For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. ⁹Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "And ^[c]they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one whose price had been set by the sons of Israel;¹⁰ and ^[d]they gave them for the Potter's Field, as the Lord directed me."

21:15-17

¹⁵ So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus *said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you [a]love Me more than these?” He *said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I [b]love You.” He *said to him, “Tend My lambs.” ¹⁶ He *said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you [e]love Me?” He *said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I [d]love You.” He *said to him, “Shepherd My sheep.” ¹⁷ He *said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you [e]love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you [f]love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I [a]love You.” Jesus *said to him, “Tend My sheep.

Of the four Gospel writers, only Matthew includes this story in his Gospel, though a partial parallel appears in Acts 1:18–19. Like Peter, Judas has an apparent change of heart after his treacherous behavior. Perhaps he did not expect his betrayal to lead to a crucifixion, thinking either that Jesus would finally mount a revolt and escape arrest or that, if imprisoned, he would not receive so severe a sentence. Judas does acknowledge his sin and Jesus’ innocence, but it’s hard to see how he demonstrated genuine repentance. He confesses to the wrong group of people and then simply gives up on life. Judas tries to return the money the Jewish leaders paid him in 26:15, but they have no interest in dealing with the matter further. Therefore, Judas responds in anger and despair.

In John 21, we find someone that denied Jesus just as Judas did and yet we see the forgiveness and restoration of God in an intimate conversation between Jesus and Peter. Peter had previously denied Jesus after a boisterous promise to never do so in Matthew 26. The threefold questioning of Peter by Jesus concerning his love brought the disciple from a response of something like “of course!” Jesus would not let him go with offering an easy response. Instead, Jesus probed him until he opened the wounded heart of this would-be follower. Jesus forced Peter to learn the hard lesson of a changed life: everyone who follows Jesus must learn what real believing and loving Jesus means.

What can we learn about sin from the story of Judas in our own lives? (Cost you more than you want to pay, keep you longer than you want to stay)

Why do you think Judas regretted his actions? Has there been a time that you did something you regretted? How have those decisions been irrevocable? How has God redeemed you from those regrets?

What is the difference in grief over actions and genuine repentance? Which did Judas demonstrate in this passage? Peter? How can we lean towards grief instead of repentance?

How does Peter’s affirmation help us to see that there is forgiveness available at even our weakest and terrible moments in life? How does this encourage you? Why is it important to know that there isn’t anything that you go through that taking your life is worth doing?

Sermon Notes

APPLICATION

Who is someone that you can pray for that may feel like they have gone too far in their betrayal? Find a way that you can encourage them to see the forgiveness of the Lord?

Write down ways that you have been the betrayer against the Lord? Write down as well ways that you can have accountability in your life so that it doesn't happen again?

Share with the group ways you can encourage each other to have a motivated love that reflects redemption and restoration.