

# BEING JUDAS

Mark 14:43-46

**INTRO** Today, I want us to look together at Mark chapter 14. The Gospel of Mark, the second book of the New Testament. The verses that we are about to read are quite possibly, the saddest of scripture recorded in God's Holy Word. This story is one of a despicable character, Judas Iscariot, that carried out an atrocious crime against the darling Son of God. He did the unthinkable. He betrayed Jesus! And the way he did it has caused cold shivers to run up the spine of people throughout the ages. He betrayed Christ with a kiss.

Today, I want to preach on the subject, BEING JUDAS.

Before we read together, let me give you the backstory to where we are in scripture. Just a couple of days before the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Passover, the religious elite conspire to finally put an end to Jesus. They agree that He needs to die. They talk about his death. They come to the conclusion that it would better to wait until after the feast so not to cause a riot among those who had an affinity toward Jesus. A plan is in place and all that is left is just the right time to present itself.

The Bible tells us that Jesus and His disciples were in Bethany at this time, in the home of Simon, the Leper. While there, an unnamed woman comes into the room where Jesus is reclining with His friends. She breaks open an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume and pours it over Jesus' head as a show of love and respect. This is not the first time something like this had happened. In each of the three accounts mentioned in Scripture where Jesus was anointed with costly oils, Judas, and some of the disciples become angry. The rationale being, the perfume could have been sold and the money used to feed the poor. It's then that Judas leaves and runs to the chief priests to literally sell Jesus out.

As the Feast approaches, Jesus sends some of His disciples into the city to prepare the Passover meal. With all the disciples and Jesus now present, the evening gave way to what we now call, the Last Supper. It was during this Passover meal that Jesus established the Holy Communion. It was also during this time that He revealed to those gathered, that one of them would betray Him to His enemies. And after handing a piece of bread to Judas, Jesus tells him, "what you are about to do, do quickly". And Judas gets up and leaves.

After they had finished the meal, the Bible says, they sung a hymn, then went out to a garden called Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives. It's there that Jesus takes Peter, James, and John with Him to a secluded place in the garden to pray. He ask His three closest friends to pray and then He goes off alone. The Bible tells us that Jesus was in great agony knowing what's about to happen. He anguished in prayer to the point that His sweat became as great drops of blood. After praying He goes back to where He finds Peter, James, and John, for third time, sleeping. He awakes them and tells them that the time for His betrayal has come. NOW READ WITH ME FROM MARK'S ACCOUNT...

**Mark 14:43-46** *"While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, scribes, and elders. 44 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The One I kiss is the man; arrest Him and lead Him away securely." 45 Going directly to Jesus, he said, "Rabbi!" and kissed Him. 46 Then the men seized Jesus and arrested Him."*

Notice with me three things about this man that betrayed Jesus...

**I) HIS PRIVILEGE:** Here is a man that had all the privileges of life. Yet, all that's remembered about him is, that he betrayed Jesus.

You would think that a man who had all the privileges that Judas enjoyed would be brought into a deep commitment and love for Jesus. But we know the end of his story.

Let's look at some of his privileges...

**A) He Had Exemplary Parents:** In three different places in scripture, we read that Judas was the son of Simon Iscariot. We don't know much about this man Simon, but what we do know is commendable. Simon named his son Judas. Judas is a derivative of Judah, which in the Hebrew means "Praise to God".

Names were chosen intentionally in Bible times, not like we choose names today. Because of that we can easily surmise that when Judas was born, Simon and his wife, in great thankfulness to God, named their son Judas, Praise to God! So, it would appear that the parents of Judas were God fearing and loving people. Yet all that's remembered about their son, is that he betrayed Jesus!

**B) He Had An Exalted Position:** v 43 *"While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, scribes, and elders."*

He was one of the twelve, one of inner most disciples of Jesus Christ. As a matter of fact, all the synoptic Gospels refer to Judas in this way, one of the twelve. It's almost as if it's unbelievable that someone in his position could do such a thing. But he did.

**C) He Had An Enduement Of Power:** Matthew 10:1-4 *"And calling His twelve disciples to Him, Jesus gave them authority over unclean spirits, so that they could drive them out and heal every disease and sickness. 2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first Simon, called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus."*

Do you get that? Judas seemed to have the same power as the others. You would think that someone who had the power to cast of demons and to heal the sick would be saved! But he wasn't. Listen, not everything that goes on in the guise of Christianity is of Jesus.

Matthew 7:22-23 *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness!'"*

**D) He Was Exposed To Preaching:** He had been with Jesus for 3 years. He heard the sermon on the mount, the sermon of the wheat and tares. He heard the best preaching ever, yet he did not take it to heart, and he died in his sins.

## I) HIS PRIVILEGE:

**II) HIS PROFESSION:** Judas was a man who professed to be one thing, but in actuality was something totally different. Have you ever known anyone who claimed to be a Christ follower, but their lives don't offer any proof to that end. Judas was that way...

**A) He Had A Walk But No Witness:** He walked with Jesus for 3 years, yet he never had the witness of one whose life had been changed.

**John 12:1-6** “Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, the home town of Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. 2 So they hosted a dinner for Jesus there. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with Him. 3 Then Mary took about a pint of expensive perfume, made of pure nard, and she anointed Jesus’ feet and wiped them with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was going to betray Him, asked, 5 “Why wasn’t this perfume sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” 6 Judas did not say this because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief. And as keeper of the money bag, he used to take from what was put into it.”

**2 Corinthians 5:17** “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come!”

**B) He Had A Confession But No Commitment:** **vv 44-45** “Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The One I kiss is the man; arrest Him and lead Him away securely.” 45 Going directly to Jesus, he said, “Rabbi!” and kissed Him.”

Certainly, you can see the treachery in this act. But what about those who claim to love the Lord, but never go to church, those who say they are Christians , but prefer the company of the world over fellowship with other Christians.

**C) He Had Remorse But No Repentance:** **Matthew 27:3-5** “When Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was filled with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders. 4 “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood,” he said. “What is that to us?” they replied. “You bear the responsibility.” 5 So Judas threw the silver into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.”

I can't tell you the times in my ministry when I have seen people who were broken by their sin, and wept before God, but they never would let go of the world that they held in one hand and turn to Jesus. They knew what they should do. The Spirit of God was dealing with their hearts, but they loved the world too much to turn from it and turn to Jesus. Judas was remorseful but never repented.

Now notice the last thing...

**III) HIS PERDITION:** Judas lost everything when he betrayed Jesus. It's hard to imagine he would give up everything he did for just 30 pieces of silver. It's safe to say that he would have never made that deal had he not been blinded by Satan. No one would!

## I) HIS PRIVILEGE:

## II) HIS PROFESSION:

## III) HIS PERDITION: Notice what it cost him...

**A) His Name:** Now, think about this, do you know anyone named Judas? I have never been to the maternity ward, and a proud you father walk out and say, Hallelujah, it's boy, I think we'll call him Judas! That name is infamous for betrayal, cutthroat, one who will stab you in the back! **JUDAS LOST HIS NAME!**

But that's not all he lost, notice he also lost...

**B) His Life:** **Matthew 27:5** *"So Judas threw the silver into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself."* **He lost his Life!**

All around us, every day, people are losing their lives because they turn their back on Christ. Jesus came to die for them, to take their place, but they are dying without Him because they won't believe that He is the Savior of the world. Judas didn't believe! If he had, he would have never betrayed Jesus. I asked the question last week, but I'll ask it again, **DO YOU BELIEVE?**

**C) His Soul:** **John 17:12** *"While I was with them, I protected and preserved them by Your name, the name You gave Me. Not one of them has been lost, except the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled."*

The Bible is clear that Judas lost his soul. After his betrayal of Jesus, all was lost to him. It is one of the saddest stories ever told. And I wish it ended with Judas. But the truth is people turn their back on Jesus and betray Him all the time. Oh, it's not in the flesh like Judas did, but they reject Jesus just the same. And that rejection will ultimately cost them everything!

What about you? Will you reject Jesus? Will you sell Him out for a few worldly pleasures and treasures? **TODAY, YOU HAVE A CHOICE.** What will you do with Christ? **DON'T BE A JUDAS!**