

Ordinary to Extraordinary
Week 10: The Traitor

Welcome to all in the house this morning and watching via live stream. This is the end of our summer series. Next week we will be off site, having a **baptism** outdoors, then into our **fall kick off**. This week we end with **Judas Iscariot**.

Obviously, there is nothing that a room full of good people **can relate to** in the life of Judas, the most wicked and notorious traitor of all. As we will read **Satan actually enters into him** at one point. He was **controlled by evil**.

So what we are going to do for the next few minutes is **rail against the greatest bad guy of all time**. We are going to dive into **how evil and duplicitous** he was. **And then, by comparison, we will look pretty good**. Hey, it's a holiday weekend, **let's find something we can all get on board with and feel good about**. There's so much discord in America over racial injustice, election politics, COVID, and wearing masks; **lets just all come together and agree on how really bad Judas Iscariot was**.

Judas is a form of the word **Judah, which means "Jehovah, leads."** Ironic isn't it? **He was from Kerioth, making him the outsider**. Since the rest were from **Galilee**, many were either related or friends. This might have been a motivation to betray them. **Being from the outside made it easier** for him to deceive, because they didn't know what he was really like. **He was treasurer and embezzled money. No one seemed to doubt him**.

It would be great to set ourselves completely apart from Judas so that we can tear into him. But that would mean that **we are saying that we are completely different and not capable of evil**.

And yet Jesus chose him and loved him??? We don't know how that happened, but we know he was chosen. Jesus wanted him on the team.

So how did things start to turn from a guy who was willing to leave whatever life he had before and follow Jesus to the one who would betray

Jesus. **Here is where we start to see something change.** It was happening before, but here are the first signs.

Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man he had raised from the dead. ² A dinner was prepared in Jesus' honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those who ate with him. ³ Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus' feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, ⁵ **"That perfume was worth a year's wages.** It should have been sold and the money given to the poor."⁶ Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples' money, he often stole some for himself. Obviously they didn't know this at the time of these events. John added this editorial note when he wrote his gospel. ⁷ **Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial.** ⁸ **You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."** John 12:1-8

And notice that Jesus rebukes Judas. He's already dipping into the till and now he's being rebuked for what would seem to be, **at face value, a pretty reasonable thing to say.** Why waste all this money. **"If you wanted Jesus to have this cologne, then give him the whole bottle and he can use it for the next year."**

I bought Robin a particular kind of perfume from Macy's last Christmas. It seemed like a good gift. When I went to pay for it from one of those **nice smelling ladies in the lab coats,** I almost passed out. I certainly wouldn't have spent that much money on a little bottle and then **poured on Robin's feet and then said, "Merry Christmas honey!"**

But with the knowledge of what he was doing and what he is going to do, **we can see that...He was looking to consume not serve.**

He saw Jesus as means to an end. His goal was not following and serving King Jesus out of love, his was personal benefit.

Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples' money, he often stole some for himself. John 12:6

He wanted to know, **"What's in it for me?"** "If I'm going to **put in three years** of living on the road, then there had better be a **tangible payoff when this guy is sitting on the throne**. He will remember who was with him "back then."

This is the **turning point**. These verses from **Matthew** would have happened after this rebuke from Jesus.

Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests ¹⁵ and asked, "How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?" And they gave him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶ From that time on, Judas began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus. Matthew 26:14-16

The **unethical behavior of skimming money** has now turned into **full-fledged conspiracy**. He has stepped over the line of it here. **Yes, it's still about money, but what they gave him was enough to buy a slave**. Not what he was going for? **So now it's personal**. There's an **emotional aspect** behind what Judas is preparing to do.

They say that you can **tell from the wounds and the crime scene** in many cases if a suspicious death was a crime of passion. **Logic was no longer ruling the day**. There was a little bit of **anger, hate** behind what was done.

Where did his emotion come from? I believe it is because...**He didn't push through the disappointment**.

Last week we talked about **Jesus preaching a sermon that really cleared the room**. He told them that they were going to have to **eat his flesh and drink his blood** to be his followers and enter into his Kingdom.

The bible says that many **"disciples deserted him."** He then **looked at the 12** and asked them if they wanted to leave too. Now they were as confused and upset by what he had said as the ones who left, but they stayed. Peter, speaking for the group, said **"Where else can we go, you have the words that lead to eternal life."** Peter is **speaking for the rest of the**

group, but we know he wasn't speaking for Judas. Judas was remaining because he was waiting for the payoff at the end.

The way Soren Kierkegaard put it is that to get to real, durable, not fragile, faith one must first be offended by Jesus, push through that offense and remain with him.

Even though Judas hadn't physically left Jesus, in his heart he was not following the real Jesus. He was following the one who he believed could benefit him in some way.

The others also thought the kingdom would be political, with an army restoring Israel to its glory days of King David. But slowly they understood that Jesus was different. It appears that Judas did not make that transition. He became disillusioned. He thought that Jesus had stolen 3 years of his life.

He didn't trust Jesus anymore because Jesus didn't meet his expectations.

Let's read a little from the next chapter of John.

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. ² It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. ⁴ So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, ⁵ and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him. John 13:1-4

Jesus had not come to be served or consume, but to serve. He was actively being the opposite of what Judas was. He is doing the job that the lowest servant/slave in a house would do.

Judas was putting on the illusion that he cared for the poor and that he was a servant who would bend and wash the feet of others.

He has been pretending to be a friend, brother, and not a thief to this point. In the upper room he takes his hypocrisy to a new level. In other words...**He wasn't real with anyone.** Not with Jesus and not with the rest of the team.

A person cannot be changed, be transformed into something new, until they are honest about what they are. You have to be able to see your sin and brokenness clearly before you can move on to something better.

This is one of our core values here at Eagle Ridge Church of God. I try to practice it by telling you about my flaws in my preaching. We have bridge groups, which are our version of small groups that give us the opportunity to develop relationships where we can be real. Right now we have started our first generation of what we are calling Builder Groups. These are smaller and more intimate. They are an opportunity to be confessional and transparent with others.

That's why people in recovery groups say, "Hi my name is _____ and I'm an addict." That represents the power of being real.

It is in 2 steps. I'm real with God and myself. Then I am real with people around me who have been negatively affected by the real me, and who can help be a part of my transformation.

Judas was not willing to be real and confessional with Jesus and he wasn't willing to be that way with any of his companions with whom he was shared life for 3 years. He put up a stop sign. They could have helped him. Obviously, Jesus could have helped him. But instead he kept playing the part of the faithful companion while all the time he was the exact opposite.

Let's go back to the upper room. "I am not saying these things to all of you; I know the ones I have chosen. But this fulfills the Scripture that says, 'The one who eats my food has turned against me.' ¹⁹ I tell you this beforehand, so that when it happens you will believe that I AM the Messiah. ²⁰ I tell you the truth, anyone who welcomes my messenger is welcoming me, and anyone who welcomes me is welcoming the Father who sent me."

²¹ Now Jesus was deeply troubled, and he exclaimed, **"I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me!"** ²² The disciples looked at each other, wondering whom he could mean. ²³ The disciple Jesus loved was sitting next to Jesus at the table. ²⁴ Simon Peter motioned to him to ask, "Who's he talking about?" ²⁵ So that disciple leaned over to Jesus and asked, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶ Jesus responded, "It is the one to whom I give the bread I dip in the bowl." And when he had dipped it, he gave it to Judas, son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷ **When Judas had eaten the bread, Satan entered into him.** Then Jesus told him, **"Hurry and do what you're going to do."** ²⁸ None of the others at the table knew what Jesus meant. ²⁹ Since Judas was their treasurer, some thought Jesus was telling him to go and pay for the food or to give some money to the poor. ³⁰ So Judas left at once, going out into the night. John 13:18-29

Jesus could not offer the first communion while Judas was there having Satan enter him. This is why he was troubled. One of his closest companions was going to betray him and then be separated from him for eternity.

The saddest part of this story is that Judas had at his disposal all that led to these other 11 going from ordinary to extraordinary. It was all there for him. Intimacy with God in the flesh was available to him. It's about Judas'...Lost opportunity and wasted privilege.

Here's what MacArthur says in Twelve Ordinary Men. **"The other eleven apostles are all great encouragements to us because they exemplify how common people with typical failings can be used by God in uncommon, remarkable ways. Judas, on the other hand, stands as a warning about the evil potential of **spiritual carelessness, squandered opportunity, sinful lusts, and hardness of the heart.** Here was a man who drew as close to the Savior as it is humanly possible to be. **He enjoyed every privilege Christ affords.** He was intimately familiar with everything Jesus taught. Yet he remained in unbelief and went into a hopeless eternity." 296-297**

He had every opportunity and more to repent and chose not to betray Jesus. He listened to the teaching Jesus did that would have been directly to his issues. 304

What we can't do with Judas is to say that he was intended to betray Jesus, had no choice, therefore, we can dismiss him as one with whom we can relate. He just went robotically to betraying Jesus. Then we miss the point that anyone is capable of betraying Jesus if we, as MacArthur said, "spiritually careless, squandered opportunity, sinful lust and hardness of heart." In other words, we can't just rail on Judas, but understand that there's the potential to be a Judas in all of us. Sin and disobedience to God always takes us further than we thought we'd go and costs us more than we thought we would have to pay.

What can I relate to in Judas?

Let's look at all of those insights about Judas and see if there is one that we can honestly say is a temptation to us.

Looking to consume not serve. Do I approach God and his church as the producer of spiritual goods and services that if I consume them will give me the happy life I want and allow me to slide into eternity?

Unwilling to push through disappointment. Has God said something in his word or through his people that has offended you. Has God done something or allowed something to happen in your life?

Not real with God or his people. You don't have to be real or transparent with everyone, but you do have to be with yourself, God, and a few of God's people.

Taking for granted the privilege of being close to Jesus.

You have had sermons, Bible studies, small groups, mission trips, life changing friendships and yet you took for granted that this would always be there. There's plenty of time. I'll sow my wild oats now and then come back to that stuff later. **This fall is going to be the greatest opportunity for you and your relationship with Jesus.**

What would it have been like if Judas had returned to the upper room and had been confessional and real with Jesus and his friends? What would it be like for us to take steps away from the ways we are like Judas toward the kind of intimacy with Jesus that was being built in that upper room? **Returning to the upper room.**

1. **Talk to Tammy.**

Tammy Naffie is our **director of mobilization**. She can help you find a way to serve others. She can also help you find your **calling**. **The other 11 ordinary men found their calling as apostles. You have one too.**

2. **Join a bridge group this fall.**

Contact Deb Deal or just call the church office.

3. **Confess to someone you trust.**

Research has shown that the top 2 inputs that can produce a Christ like life are, 1. Reading the Bible (4 times a week) and 2. Confession or transparency.

No matter the wickedness God's purposes will prevail.

You can associate with Jesus and remain hardened in sin.

No matter how evil, treacherous people are, God's purpose cannot be thwarted.

²⁰ **You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. Gen. 50:20** Judas meant it for evil, but God meant it for good.