

Dr. Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church

Matthew 26:14-16 | Betrayal

Sunday February 22, 2025

WELCOME:

- Bibles in the back—our gift to you.
- My sermon notes are in the foyer—please take them home with you.
- The Gospels of Mark and Matthew are on the website at RiverBible.org.

REVIEW:

Before my break, we met a woman named Mary.

This wasn't Mary, Jesus' mother—nor was it Mary Magelene, the one whom Jesus cast seven demons out of (Mark 16:9; Luke 8:2).

We met Mary of Bethany—this Mary is the sister of Martha and Lazarus.

 **Last Week KEYPOINT 1:**

Every time Mary was with Jesus, she was misunderstood.

Martha misunderstood Mary when she sat at Jesus' feet to hear Him teach the Word.

Mary's friends and neighbors misunderstood her when Lazarus died.

And she was misunderstood when she spent a year's salary on a bottle of perfume.

Mary is mentioned only three times in the Gospels, and each time she is at the feet of Jesus.

I then closed by asking, “How do we, in our own personal faith, get to that point—having a Mary type of faith?”

The point where Mary surrendered all?

Last Week KEYPOINT:

Start small and walk slowly.

This is a very practical thing that we've all done.

We've started small and walked slowly in other areas of our lives.

Before we could read or write, we had to learn the alphabet.

Before we could balance our checkbooks, we had to learn how to count to ten.

Before we play a round of golf, throw a baseball, or score a touchdown, we have to know the very basics of those sports.

Spiritually speaking, the same principle applies.

Starting small begins:

1. Hearing the Gospel and repenting of our sins.
2. By reading and understanding who God says He is in His own words in Holy Scripture.
3. By committing to the local church

Our own efforts do not discover our faith—it's only revealed in the Word of God by the Spirit of God in the Community of God.

So these are examples of starting small.

Walking slowly includes:

1. Walking in the rhythm of God—not ahead of Him and not lagging behind.
2. It is also about daily repentance—not only confessing our sins once, but also turning away from them—leaving our old lives and turning to Jesus through Scripture as the standard for faith and obedience.

→ The Bride of Christ.

3. We also turn to the local church for fellowship and community.

Starting small and walking slowly is a picture of the cross—vertical and horizontal.

What could happen if you personally started surrendering your life little by little, day by day?

Compound effect of those Actions .

Where would you be next week, next year—ten years from now — in your walk with God?

You just might have the faith of Mary of Bethany.

Then corporately, can you imagine what the Lord would do with a small group of broken people, called the Church, who together surrender just a little bit day by day?

Can you imagine the impact the Church would have on the VV?

INTRODUCTION:

Mary of Bethany walked with God— she is a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Today, we focus on another Disciple—one of the Twelve.

His name is Judas Iscariot.

Judas made an appearance in last week's narrative—but today he steals the show.

Today's passage is only three verses long, yet when most people hear the name "Judas Iscariot," volumes are spoken.

Dictionaries use Judas as the poster boy for betrayal—"the Judas kiss."

I want you to notice how Matthew contrasts Mary's love for Jesus with Judas' betrayal. *by placing both these stories back to back .*

Betrayal is really the main theme for the rest of Matthew 26.

So, we'll have many application points along the way.

Please stand for the reading and honoring of God's Word.

SCRIPTURE:

† **Matthew 26:14**—Then one of the Twelve, the man called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests

† **Matthew 26:15**—and said, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" So they weighed out thirty pieces of silver for him.

† **Matthew 26:16**—And from that time he started looking for a good opportunity to betray him.

PRAY:

Even my friend, in whom I trusted, one who ate my bread, has raised his heel against me. (Ps 41:9)

EXEGESIS: Full Context

† **Matthew 26:6**—While Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper,

† **Matthew 26:7**—a woman approached him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume. She poured it on his head as he was reclining at the table.

† **Matthew 26:8**—When the disciples saw it, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked.

† **Matthew 26:9**—"This might have been sold for a great deal and given to the poor."

† **Matthew 26:10**—*Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a noble thing for me.*

† **Matthew 26:11**—*You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.*

† **Matthew 26:12**—*By pouring this perfume on my body, she has prepared me for burial.*

† **Matthew 26:13**—*Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her."*

† **Matthew 26:14**— Then one of the Twelve,

Matthew starts with tragedy—one of the Twelve.

We all know who this man is—

† **Matthew 26:14**— *the man called Judas Iscariot,*

Ever since he appeared on the world stage as a Disciple, Judas has been an unending source of speculation.

Who was this man that the Lord Jesus chose to be in His inner circle? As one of His Disciples?

The name Judas means "praise."

Think about the glaring contradiction between his name and his actions.

Judas used to be a beautiful name—its root form comes from one of the tribes of Israel, "Judah."

Isaac's wife, Leah, said this after she gave birth to her son...



Genesis 29:35—“This time I will praise the LORD.” Therefore, she named him Judah.

Tragically, Judas ruined this beautiful name for future generations.

How many parents name their kids Judas today?

"Isacariot" most likely means he was from the town of *Carioth*.

Carioth was a city in southern Judah.

The Moabites lived in this area in the OT.

Judas of Carioth was the only disciple from the southern region of Israel.

The other eleven Disciples were from the northern part of Israel— Galilee.

What's that mean? Judas was from Scottsdale!

Living in Carioth points to his upbringing and lifestyle—He most likely came from a wealthy family.

Judas was well educated in the Jewish faith.

It's possible Judas was the only one in the group with formal theological training.

Socially, Judas was the outsider within the Twelve Disciples.

It was a common prejudice among southern Jews to think that the Gaileans were unsophisticated and uneducated.

So Judas may have been a bit of an outsider.

However, Judas's resume was so impressive that the other Disciples voted him as the group's treasurer!

Matthew 26:14— *the man called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests*

Notice that Judas went to see a group of people | he had no business | doing business with.

Psalm 1 addresses the choice we all have—it's the Gateway Psalm because it provides a fork in the road—a wide road vs. a narrow road.

Psalm 1:1—*How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers!*

Judas has officially turned his back on Jesus and the other eleven Disciples.

His actions reveal the state of his heart—regardless of what he says.

KEYPOINT 1:
Our actions prove our theology. (What we truly believe about God.)

What we do with our time and money reveals our faith, or lack thereof.

Our calendar and checkbook speak volumes about our character.

Question: What triggered Judas?

Matthew 26:14— *Then one of the Twelve,*

- Why did Judas get so angry about Mary anointing Jesus?
- What was the straw that broke the camel's back?
- Was it the amount of money that Judas said Mary "wasted?"
- Was it Jesus' rebuke to him and the rest of the Disciples to leave her alone?

- Was Jesus' rebuke the opposite of what Judas wanted to hear?

Everybody has a hot button.

What was Judas thinking at this moment that caused him consciously and willfully to choose to betray the Son of God?

Why did Judas follow Jesus for three years, listen to His Word, share His ministry, and then turn traitor after Mary's anointing?

Many people like a good conspiracy theory—we have a volume of speculation about Judas.

Let me give you two of the most popular.

Some people say that the name *Iscairiot* comes from the Latin term meaning *insurrectionists*.

They propose that Judas was a secret political extremist, a member of the "zealots."

They believe that Judas followed Jesus because he expected Jesus to lead a revolt against Rome.

AND Jesus' failure to act against Rome infuriated Judas, so he decided to betray Him.

A second theory is that Judas tries to force Jesus to act against Rome by arranging His arrest.

However, Matthew says nothing about these conspiracy theories.

The Gospels provide no explanation for Judas' motives.

Here's what we do know:

- Jesus chose him as a Disciple (Mk 3:13).
- Judas was face-to-face, listening to the Son of God teach, preach, and heal for three years.
- Judas had Apostolic authority—Jesus sent Judas out with the other Disciples to preach the Gospel, heal the sick, cast out demons, and even raise the dead! (Mt. 10:1-42)
- Judas was at the Last Supper—meaning that Jesus washed his feet (Jn 13:1).
- Jesus predicts Judas' betrayal (Mt. 26:17-25)
- Judas is the one who leads the Jewish leaders to arrest Jesus (Mt. 26:47-56).
- Judas commits suicide (Mt. 27:3-10).

We don't know his heart—but his heart is revealed by his actions—and those actions bear fruit.

Our actions reveal what we truly believe about God.

Judas goes to the people he knows want to kill Jesus—willingly and on his own recognizance.

He took it upon himself to see what he could personally gain by betraying God incarnate.

Betrayal—breaking someone's trust—is nothing new—it starts with Adam and Eve.

In Genesis 3, Satan betrays Eve's trust—so she eats the forbidden fruit and gives it to her husband.

In Genesis 4, Cain betrays Abel by lying to him and killing him.

Family Dysfunction continues

In Genesis 37, Joseph's jealous brothers strip him of the coat that his father made for him, throw him into a pit, and sell him into slavery, pretending a wild animal killed him, and then lived with that betrayal for years!

lie

In Judges 16, Delilah pressured Samson to tell her the secret of his strength and betrayed him by selling him out to Israel's arch enemy—the Philistines.

In 2 Samuel 15–18, King David's son Absalom rebels, steals the hearts of the people, and attempts a political revolt, forcing his father to flee his home for safety.

In the NT...

In Matthew 26, Judas betrays Jesus, and the other eleven Disciples abandon Jesus during His arrest. *Crucifixion*

In 2 Timothy 4:10, the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy from prison: "Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world" (2 Tim. 4:10a).

KEYPOINT 2:

People betray others when they are needed the most.

When Jesus needed the Twelve the most—they abandoned Him.

When Paul needed Demas—Demas bolts.

You have your own story... *fill in the blank*

It's been that way from day one—it'll be that way until Christ returns.

Betrayal is a part of our sin nature.

Betrayal makes a good novel or mini-series—deception, lying, and back-biting all make for good entertainment when you're watching a James Bond movie, but it's brutally painful when this type of sin hits home.

How many times have we heard things like this: *-or bear a part*

When a wife needs her husband the most—maybe she gets sick, money runs out, a child is out of control, or she is overcome by depression—he turns his back on her and abandons her for another woman.

When a son needs his father or a daughter needs her mother—mom and dad are too busy chasing down the American dream, climbing the corporate ladder.

When a boss needs an employee, or a church needs a member to help, they walk away.

Betrayal in the real world leaves wounds that rarely heal.

It's been well said that it takes years and decades to build good relationships, and only one split second to destroy them.

- Did Judas expect Jesus to lead a revolt against Rome?
- Was he disillusioned with Jesus' lack of political action?
- Sick and tired of Jesus' talk of death and resurrection?

No one knows. Here in verse 15, we don't need to speculate on why Judas does what he does—Judas asks this question:

Matthew 26:15—and said, "What are you willing to give me if I...

Why do people betray and abandon the ones they said they loved?

It comes down to the unholy trinity of "me, myself, and I."

"What have you done for me lately?"

Yet Christians are commanded to pick up their crosses during the hard times and become living sacrifices (Rom. 12:2).

Living Sacrifice = You before me.

Matthew 26:15—and said, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?"

“Hand Him over”—Your translation may say, “betray, deliver or pay.”

Judas is not misguided here. This is not a mistake.

Judas intentionally sought out the priests and asked them this demonic question.

Paraphrase—“What will you give me, and I will betray him to you.”

Matthew 26:15—*So they weighed out thirty pieces of silver for him.*

His motive was greed—follow the money.

John's Gospel notes how Judas stole money from the Disciples (John 12:5).

Judas was a thief from the very beginning.

Greed is about excess—excessive desire for more and more of something.

The LORD God warns of this excess from the beginning—it's called a natural law.

A natural law is a law that God has written on our hearts.

The natural law is the moral law found within the Ten Commandments: ***Thou shalt not covet*** (Ex. 20:17).

In other words, don't desire, wish for, long for, or crave for something that is not yours.

King Solomon, who was the wealthiest man on the planet, said this...

Ecclesiastes 5:10—*Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness!*

Judas evidently wants to redeem the last three years with some cash.

Ecclesiastes 5:12— People who work hard sleep well, whether they eat little or much. But the rich seldom get a good night's sleep.

Do you think Judas was sleeping well as he began plotting the Lord's betrayal?

Ecclesiastes 5:15— We all come to the end of our lives as naked and empty-handed as on the day we were born. We can't take our riches with us.

That's why you don't see a U-Haul attached to a hearse.

In the NT:

Ephesians 5:5— You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.

1 Timothy 6:9— But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction.

1 Timothy 6:10— For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

Today's passage shows how Judas wandered from the true faith.

↳ Spent all these things upon himself.

Matthew 26:15— So they weighed out thirty pieces of silver for him.

The "thirty pieces" of silver are both prophetic and ironic.

It's prophetic because in the OT, the priests also "weighed out" thirty pieces of silver for the prophet Zechariah.

At one point in his ministry, God told Zechariah to have a difficult conversation with the priests.

Zechariah 11:9 NLT—So I (Zach) told them (religious leaders), "I won't be your shepherd any longer. If you die, you die. If you are killed, you are killed. And let those who remain devour each other!"

Zechariah 11:12 NLT—And I said to them, "If you like, give me my wages, whatever I am worth; but only if you want to." So they counted out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.

Zechariah 11:13 NLT—And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—this magnificent sum at which they valued Me! So I (Zach) took the thirty coins and threw them to the potter (representing God's judgment) in the Temple of the Lord.

In other words, to show their contempt for the prophet Zechariah (who represents God), the religious leaders deliberately chose to pay Zechariah thirty pieces of silver.

Thirty pieces of silver were the price of a dead slave (Exodus 21:32).

Just as Zechariah (who prefigures Christ) threw the money back into the Temple, Judas does the same with Christ himself.

That's the prophecy of the 30 pieces of silver, and now here's the irony...

Judas makes a scene when Mary of Bethany spends a year's wages on perfume, but then betrays Him for one-third of that price.

Judas called Mary's sacrifice a "waste"—and yet he's the one who wastes his life.

KEYPOINT 3:

We all have a price to sell out and betray our loved ones—and it's lower than we think.

That's why we as Christians don't do business with people we have no business doing business with.

— All it takes is one weak moment — at just the right time — when we're most vulnerable — to ruin our lives.

Sin is a slow fade—a slow fade of morals and conscience.

↳ See King David's story about Bathsheba

Christians don't push boundaries or trespass into things when God tells us those things will hurt us.

Sin always makes us stupid—Big 3: Power, Sex and money.

When God says “don't,” He means “don't hurt yourself.” (Unknown).

Matthew 26:16—And from that time he started looking for a good opportunity to betray him.

From that time, indicates that Judas started immediately.

Judas began a continuous search; he was always on the lookout for an opportunity to betray the Son of God.

A good opportunity would be when Jesus was away from the crowds.

Luke 22:6—So he accepted the offer and started looking for a good opportunity to betray him to them when the crowd was not present.

The crowd would start a riot...

Matthew 26:16—And from that time he started looking for a good opportunity to betray him.

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