

Daily Bible Study

“The Betrayer”

Mark 14:10-11

October 21 –27, 2012

THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY –As we return to our study of Mark, we move along in **chapter 14** continuing to close out this record of our Lord’s life and ministry as recorded in this Gospel. Our text for this week will be **Mark 14:10-11**. It is a short but poignant text of Scripture which among other things is quite frightening. In it we come to meet the man known as **The Betrayer**, Judas Iscariot. Mark does an incredible job setting side by side the anointing of Jesus at Bethany by Mary and the betrayal by Judas. One is an incredible act of love and the other a horrid act of betrayal and treachery. The name Judas always stirs the emotion. William Barclay says of Judas, “Dante sets him in the lowest of all hells, a hell of cold and ice, a hell designed for those who were not hot sinners swept away by angry passions, but cold, calculating, deliberate offenders against the love of God.” As we will see in weeks to come Judas does indeed sin in the face of a gracious God who even at the Last Passover seems to offer him another warning to turn from his sin. We will see that later in **chapter 14** but for now let us look at the text of Scripture and study the text and the person of Judas and learn and be warned of the type of sin (covetousness, jealousy, and selfish ambition) manifested in his actions and attitudes. In the previous narrative we learned that all the disciples had murmured on account of the “waste” of the precious ointment but our Lord’s rebuke worked in them to convict them. But with Judas the case was very different. Jesus rebuke only served to harden him more and pressed him to action. Notice how Mark tells the story with a sad and tragic brevity, clarity and preciseness: **Mark 14:10-11**: “*Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them. And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. So he sought how he might conveniently betray Him.*”

Suggestion for Prayer: *Father, teach me from Your Word as I study this piece of Scripture.*

TUESDAY – **Mark 14:10-11**: “*Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them. And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. So he sought how he might conveniently betray Him.*” As we start to unpack this text and look more closely at the life of Judas Iscariot I want to draw our attention to the very first phrase of the text, *Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve*. I would remind you that all twelve of the disciples would soon betray Jesus and “*flee from Him*” (**Mark 14:50**), so what is it that

makes Judas’ betrayal so much more severe; so much so that Jesus said it would have been better if he had not been born? The difference is in short, that although Judas was merely *one of the twelve* betrayers he is The Betrayer for he did so in a premeditated manner. Even in modern American justice we find there is more severe penalty meted out on one who was premeditated in their crime. Planned, premeditation brings a more severe penalty than does a sudden reactionary anger, fear or other responsive action although both actions are crimes. This fact separates Judas from the other of our Lord’s disciples in the degree of his culpability. The text points out for us that it was of Judas’ own initiative that he *went to the chief priests to betray Him to them*. He went out of his way to counsel with men he knew were plotting to get rid of Jesus. May we be warned lest we plan and premeditate in sinning against our Lord. Read **Psalms 19:13** and may this also be our prayer and our action.

Suggestion for Prayer: *Father, save me from planning to sin against You. Thank You for loving and forgiving me even though I have often sinned willfully after planning and plotting.*

WEDNESDAY – **Mark 14:10-11**: “*Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them. And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. So he sought how he might conveniently betray Him.*” Incredibly, as the religious leaders were plotting against Jesus, one of Jesus’ very own disciples comes forward to them. Judas came to them *...And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money*. They were glad because they saw their deed could be accomplished by “one of the twelve”, one of Jesus own men from within His inner circle. The text does not say they were surprised but glad. Most likely, these wicked religious leaders would have seen his defection from the group as vindication of their scheme. So they *promised to give him money*. **Matthew 26:15** tells us the amount, namely, thirty pieces of silver, according to the prophecy of **Zechariah 11:12** to which Matthew evidently refers. These pieces of silver were the remuneration price of a slave, gored by an ox, according to **Exodus 21:32**. Jesus’ life was sold relatively “cheap” in other words. Another thing, when we start evaluating the “worth” of something in monetary terms, here things such as ointment (perfume) or a human life, the human life of the Almighty sinless creator, we most assuredly have lost our way. Sadly, many decisions are made and injustices done in everyday life based in this rationale of “how much something was worth”. The parallel accounts leave us the impression that this treacherous business went down quickly. Combining **Matthew 26:14**, **Mark 14:11** and **Luke 22:5-6** we can deduce that Judas asks what they were willing to give, they promise 30 pieces of silver, he agrees, they count it out and Judas leaves. It’s over quick and easy. The chief priests would not have allowed this opportunity to pass by without getting the money in Judas’ pocket. They knew he would not have dared to back out once he had the money.

Suggestion for Prayer: *Father, Son and Holy Spirit, You are priceless and Your “worth” is*

inestimable. Thank You for stooping to love me. Help me treat others with love, respect and dignity. Help me value human life made in Your image, both born and unborn as You do.

THURSDAY – Mark 14:10-11: “Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them. And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. So he sought how he might conveniently betray Him.” We finish the text by reading that *he sought how he might conveniently betray Him*. **Luke 22:6** helps explain the *convenient* part by saying, “*in the absence of the multitude*.” That is to say Judas was looking for a time when the people were not around Jesus and when He was in private with his disciples. And so he betrayed him at night, when he was alone with his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. This is also a point that Jesus will again bring up when He is betrayed pointing out that these cowardly sinners would not arrest Him in front of the crowds or out of the Temple where he constantly taught but rather waited to the secrecy and darkness of Gethsemane (**Mark 14:49**). The truth is they were afraid of Jesus’ popularity with the people and the travelers present in Jerusalem for the feast (**Mark 11:18, 12:12**). Isn’t it so true how sin deceives us to the point where we actually think it is “less wrong” to commit certain actions or attitudes if they are done in secrecy? Jesus spoke to this propensity of sinful mankind to love committing sin in the darkness and running from the light in **John 3:19-21**. Well Judas had the money already in his possession, and now feels obliged to go into action and betray Jesus and we will soon see that Divine Providence brings the opportunity his way very soon.

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me to love the light of holiness with its pure exposing quality as well as the accountability it brings. Save me from dark, secluded, secret sin.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY – Mark 14:10-11: “Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them. And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. So he sought how he might conveniently betray Him.” We finish this week with a look at the act of betrayal and then a bit of a biography on the man Judas Iscariot which I have slightly edited from of The New Bible Dictionary, 3rd edition. The text ends saying Judas *sought how he might conveniently betray Him*. The word **betray** is the Greek word *paradidōmi* which literally means “to give over, deliver”. In its 118 uses in the KJV its often translated *betray* but this is not its only meaning. It can have a positive meaning of “entrust” (**Matthew 11:27**) or “restore” or “command” (**Acts 14:26, 15:40**), as well as negative sense of “to hand someone over to the authorities” or “to put someone in Satan’s hands” (**1 Corinthians 5:5, 1 Timothy 1:20**), or for God to abandon someone to his own idolatry (**Acts 7:42**). Obviously the context determines the meaning of this verb and “betrayal” in its very negative sense fits Judas’ actions. As for the disciple Judas Iscariot, his name Iscariot is an Aramaic term meaning “man from Kerioth.” In the synoptic gospels lists of the Twelve disciples whom Jesus called the name of Judas always appears last, and it is usually found with some description branding him

with the infamous stigma “who betrayed Him” —see **Mark 3:19, Matthew 10:4, Luke 6:16, John 18: 2, 5**. An Old Testament similarity would be Jeroboam, who in the text of the Old Testament, is mentioned with the horrific label of the one “who made Israel to sin”. In the group of disciples Judas was treasurer (**John 13:29**), and John in the text speaks of him as a thief (**John 12:6**), most likely because he stole the money which was entrusted to him. We remember from our current study that He raises the voice of criticism against the action of Mary, who anointed Jesus with the precious ointment. So deceptive, deceived and corrupt is Judas that he saw in the sacrifice of such costly ointment nothing of beauty. Jesus did and praised Mary (**Mark 14:6**) but Judas only saw a means by which the fund could have been increased, and his own pocket lined. He even tried to cover the motive of his sin by veiling it saying that the money could be given away to relieve the poor. Satan eventually took complete control of this man who had become his captive and Judas goes and carries out the premeditated plan. His pathetic remorse is recorded in Scripture in **Matthew 27:3–10**. The apostle had become an apostate; and had gone to the destiny reserved for such a man. This reference raises the question of the true character of Judas. If “his own place” is the place he chose for himself, what motives led him to his awful destiny and fate? How can we reconcile this statement with those Scriptures which say that he was predetermined to fulfill the role of traitor the one who Scripture labels “the son of perdition” (**John 17:12**)? We must not doubt the sincerity of the Lord’s call as that calls into question the Lord’s character, and his repeated appeals to Judas. The bottom line after all the speculation concerning predestination etc.... is that Judas was never really Christ’s man. He fell from apostleship, but he never had a genuine relationship to the Lord Jesus. So he remained ‘the son of perdition’ who was lost because he was never ‘saved’. His highest title for Christ was ‘Rabbi’ (**Matthew 26:25**), never ‘Lord’. He lives on the stage of Scripture as an awful warning to the uncommitted follower of Jesus who is in his company but does not share his spirit (**Romans 8:9**). He leaves the Gospel story ‘a doomed and damned man’ because he chose it so, and God confirmed him in that dreadful choice.

Suggestion for Prayer: Father God, help me to fear at the thought of being so close to Jesus and not loving Him and knowing Him by repentance and faith. I thank You for conviction of sin and help me never to turn a deaf ear or hard heart to You Holy Spirit. Thank You Jesus for the promise that all who come to You, you will not cast aside.