**MARK 14 – JUDAS**

**R Giglio Oct. 22, 2020**

Last Week: The Anointing at Bethany by Mary at the dinner held in Jesus’ honor.

**Mark 14:4-8 “**Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? **5**It could have been sold for more than a year’s wagesand the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly.

**6**“Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. **7**The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. **8**She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial.

Judas (according to the Gospel if John) made a statement that the expensive anointing oil that was poured upon Jesus should have been sold and the money used to help the poor. Jesus opposed this idea, showing us that while love for others (in this case, the poor) is important, the most important love should be directed to God.

**Matt 22:37** “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

We must also love our neighbor as ourselves, but not on the same level that we love and are devoted to God (*with all of our heart, soul and mind*).

Judas’s protest of this expression of worship showed us something in his heart that was not the same as the others. Judas, even though he walked with Jesus and witnessed all of the same miracles and divine occurrences as the others, did not *revere* and *honor* Jesus the way the others did. He was willing to try to *put an end* to the *beautiful expression of worship* that Mary was putting forth, by using “care for the poor” as an excuse to benefit his own selfish personal gain.

**John 12:6** “He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

This was a turning point for Judas. He had seen enough. He realized that Jesus no longer had value to his corrupt scheme and decided it was time to make money by *betraying Jesus* as opposed to just *stealing from him*.

**THIS WEEK’S TEXT:**

**Mark 14:9-20** *[speaking of Mary] “*Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

**10**Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. ***11****They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.*

**The Last Supper**

**12**On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus’ disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

**13**So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. **14**Say to the owner of the house he enters, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ **15**He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

**16**The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

**17**When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. **18**While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me.”

**19**They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, “Surely you don’t mean me?”

**20**“It is one of the Twelve,” he replied, “one who dips bread into the bowl with me. **21**The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”

What a devastating thing to hear from the lips of Jesus at the Passover Seder, that *you* or *one of your close friends* will “betray” him.

Interestingly, none of them suspected Judas as the betrayer. Judas had kept his sin and unbelief to himself for 3 ½ years and had fooled the other disciples into believing that he was *just as devoted* to Jesus as they were.

John gives more detail about how the apostles reacted to Jesus’ words;

**John 13:22-30** “**22**His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. **23**One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. **24**Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, “Ask him which one he means.”

**25**Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?”

**26**Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. **27**As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.” **28**But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. **29**Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. **30**As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

What a puzzling verse.

*“….As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him”*

Also, just as puzzling is the last verse from the first passage;

*“….But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”*

Then to add to the mystery are other verses in the New Testament that seem to indicate that Judas was predestined to betray Jesus, and had no choice in the matter, like;

**Act 2:23** [Peter’s sermon at Pentecost] “This man [Jesus] was handed over to you by *God's deliberate plan* and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.”

There is an age-old argument among Christian scholars as to whether or not Judas had a choice to betray Jesus, or was he just following along in God’s predetermined plan?

The underpinnings of the argument are rooted in the two main streams of doctrines and theology; Calvinism or Arminianism.

Doctrines that are built upon *Calvinism* emphasizes “God’s Sovereignty” believing that all actions are predetermined by God.

Doctrines built upon *Arminianism* emphasize “Free Will” and that our *own actions* determine the outcomes of what takes place in our lives.

There are very good reasons why both positions have been held so strongly for so long. The Bible is filled with supporting verses that can be used to support for each doctrine (sometimes the same verses). The C&MA does not teach us to hold to one or the other. Instead they recognize the tension between Calvinism and Arminianism and emphasize the importance of preaching the gospel to fulfill God’s will on the earth.

To me, it’s clear that God has sovereign purposes that He wants to accomplish, and desires to accomplish His will through us.

The Devil also has purposes, but his is subject to God’s will and he can only do what God allows *(See Job 1 – Satan asked God for permission to afflict Job).*

My personal belief is that our *obedience* or *disobedience* to God will determine whose will is accomplished through our lives. Insomuch as we are faithful to his Word, or disobedient to His Word, determines how much we are part of His sovereign will for the world around us.

*[example: sort of like those video games that have completely separate endings depending on what path you choose or how well you do along the way. The game programmer who created the “complex algorithm” for the game can tell you exactly what will happen in the end based on your choices and performance. He doesn’t determine it, but he knows it].*

God is sort of like that, but he is;

* Omniscient: He knows everything.
* Omnipotent: He has the power to do anything
* Omnipresent: He is everywhere.

He is also Sovereign, in that he can do whatever he wants, when he wants.

AND he is Eternal – He is not limited by time – He WAS and IS and IS TO COME.

Regarding Judas, it was no surprise to Jesus that he was the one to turn away. Even back in John 6, Jesus saw it;

**John 6:70-71** “**70**Then Jesus replied, “Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!” **71**(He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)

Judas’ heart was apparently evil all along, but he kept it hidden. The main weapon of the enemy is deception, and Judas was able to deceive everyone, except for Jesus.

Yet, even though Jesus knew this, he did not reject Judas. In fact, he made him one of the 12 apostles and spent as much time discipling Judas as he did the other apostles.

*(Even the best disciplers, can have disciples who turn away).*

Jesus allowed Judas to be part of every event, every teaching, every miracle, partnered him up with another apostle when He send the twelve out two by two, and even allowed him to follow him all the way to the Last Supper.

The only thing keeping Judas from Satan, was that he was under Jesus’ care and protection. Once the time of betrayal came about, Judas was on his own and “ Satan entered into him”.

In fact, Satan wanted to come upon every one of the disciples, *including Peter* at that time but Jesus did not allow it.

**Luke 22:31**“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. **32**But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

(This was just hours before Peter denied Jesus three times after he was arrested.)

Judas’ story ends sadly, he lived a double life, stealing from the apostles, betraying the Lord, and ended his life in deep sadness, committing suicide in a public field, dying in his sins and going down in history as the ultimate “betrayer”. In Jesus’ words “*It would be better for him if he had not been born”*

How could this happen? Judas had the best teaching, the best experiences ever, and closer proximity to Jesus than almost anyone in history. He was one of the twelve!

He also had a position, he was the book-keeper/accountant/administrator (he held the money bag). He was also known as someone who cared for the poor;

When he left the last supper;

“some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor.” (John 13:29)

I would appear that Judas was plagued with an obsession that the Bible says is a root of all kinds of evil.

**1 Timothy 6:10** **“**For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”

Jesus AND the Apostles had become very famous at this point. They were known by many and followed by the multitudes. Judas used this power and popularity to deceive many and indulge in selfish gain.

Peter also failed the Lord on that very same night.

Mark 14:29-31

**29**Peter declared, “Even if all fall away, I will not.”

**30**“Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times.”

**31**But Peter insisted emphatically, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the others said the same.

Unlike Judas, Peter’s was devoted to Jesus, even though he denied him three times in a moment of weakness. Afterward he responded with bitter remorse that led to repentance, not suicide (which is the very act of murder - murdering oneself).

On that very night, Jesus experienced the emotional heartache of being *betrayed and denied* by two of his close friends. He was then arrested, beaten, and imprisoned by the very people he came to save.

Jesus went on to restore Peter in a very emotional exchange in John 21 after the resurrection, he even put Peter ion charge of caring for “his sheep”.

I believe Jesus would have restored Judas too, if he had a repentant heart like Peter. Jesus was always quick to forgive and restore.

*Closing:*

Judas had opened his heart to the deceiver and was therefore able to deceive many others, including the apostles. The devil’s purposes were to *destroy Jesus* and use Judas to do it. His purpose was *also to destroy Judas*, which He was able to do.

*God’s purposes* were accomplished however, and Jesus being arrested, lead to Him being crucified and Rising from the dead. This was not a mistake, in fact it is the central purposes of why He came.

What can we learn from this?

There is a popular saying in counseling “*Hurt People Hurt Others”,* meaning when someone is emotionally wounded, they are very likely to inflict emotional pain on others.

What’s also true is “*Deceived People, Deceive Others”.*

Judas was obviously not living in the truth, he was deceived. In turn he deceived everyone who gave him money, even Jesus very apostles were deceived into thinking he was something that he wasn’t.

Jesus told us in Mark 13 that “*in the end times false prophets will deceive even the elect if it is possible”.*

There is a lot of deception out there. The hard part about it is that it’s not always easy to detect. It may come from presumably reputable sources (teachers, politicians, even the highest echelon of religious leaders).

This is why it’s so important know God and study His word.

Jesus’ prayer for his apostles on that same final night, is a prayer about *knowing God* and *knowing His Word*. I believe He intercedes for us with this prayer, even now.

**John 17:3** **“**Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

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**John 17:12-17** “While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost *except the one doomed to destruction*so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

**13**“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. **14**I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. **15**My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. **16**They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. **17**Sanctify them bythe truth; your word is truth.”

None of us has to be deceived.

God’s will is that we have the full measure of joy,

*knowing God* and receiving eternal life.

We do this by staying in *His word*, His word is *truth*.

Let Jesus our Sanctifier, “sanctify” you (set you apart, protect you, strengthen you) by His word. Then you will not be vulnerable to the deceiver,

because you will be sanctified by the truth. HIS WORD IS TRUTH.