

THE BETRAYAL

PRECEPT

MATTHEW 26:14-16

¹⁴ Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶ From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

LUKE 6:12-16

¹² One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. ¹³ When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: ¹⁴ Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, ¹⁵ Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶ Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

PROMISE

Judas is one of Biblical history's most unfortunate and tragic figures. His name is associated with traitor and betrayer all throughout the history. Matthew 10:1-4 says, “¹ Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is 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 him.” Here it was first mentioned that Judas was to betray Jesus. His betrayal was also in Mark 3:19 and in Luke 6:16. The Gospel writers could not help but disclose upfront who Judas will be on Jesus life.

Who is Judas Iscariot? He is one of the twelve apostles, handpicked by Jesus from the seventy disciples, after a long night of prayer. Luke 6:12-13 says, “¹² One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. ¹³ When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: ¹⁴ Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, ¹⁵ Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶ Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.” He was also a treasurer (John 13:29), so he was most likely considered a person of integrity for getting this role. He was also empowered by God according to Matthew 10:1 and Mark 3:15. Most importantly, he was a witness in all of Jesus' miracles, walked and served with Him.

Matthew 26:14-16 tells us, “¹⁴ Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶ From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.” His desire for riches and position clouded his judgment and created doubts in his mind. He denied the reality of who Jesus is. He betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Judas came with an armed mob to arrest Jesus. Jesus, instead of resisting, He replied, “Do what you came for, friend” (Matthew 26:50). Not only Judas, but all the other disciples deserted and abandoned Jesus after the arrest. Yet Jesus, remained faithful to them and still loved them. Even though Jesus knew all along that Judas would betray Him, so genuine and complete was Jesus' love for Judas that none of the disciples could tell which of them was Jesus' betrayer. Jesus left the way to God's mercy, love, and grace open to Judas; for him to come back to Him after he betrayed Him. Judas went down as the greatest traitor in history. He was unwilling to receive what Jesus had come to offer him and took his own life. On the other hand, Peter, who denied Jesus many times and one of the disciples who deserted Him, was repentant and humiliated, opened his heart to Jesus' message of grace and forgiveness, and led the revival in Jerusalem.

Jesus loved Judas to the very end. He is the ultimate example of faithfulness, loyalty, love, and friendship.

PRACTICE

1. Healing. Are you still dealing with the wounds of betrayal? What is one thing you can do this week to surrender it to God?

2. Betrayal. For what or whom are you tempted to trade your relationship with Christ? How can this group hold you accountable?

PRAYER

I. Young Couples

• Pray for these couples as they lead the Young Couples' groups: Imperial, Oliveros, & Renauld.

II. Circles

• Pray for Manalo couple as they continue to lead our singles and youth to God & His Word.

III. West Life Groups

• Pray for these couples as they lead the West groups: Solidum & Fabregas.

IV. South Life Groups

• Pray for the Drapeza couple as they lead the South groups.

V. North Life Groups

• Pray for these couples as they lead the North groups: Ocampo & Ico.

VI. East Life Groups

• Pray for these couples as they lead the East groups: Torres & Domingo.

VII. Disciples

• Let us pray for disciples to teach and encourage so that they will experience God personally.