

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church
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Sermon Title: Two Disciples Who Felt Terrible For What They Did, Mark 14

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INTRODUCTION: Today I want to look at Judas' betrayal of Jesus and Peter's denial of Jesus.

The five points in this message are:

1. Judas was one of the Twelve.
2. Jesus predicted Judas' betrayal.
3. Judas' betrayal of Jesus was costly.
4. Peter denied Jesus and was later restored.

First, JUDAS WAS ONE OF THE TWELVE.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 14:10-11 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.*

EXPLANATION: Today's message begins with Judas, probably the least favorite and one of the least talked about people in the Bible. There are just some names that go out of popularity due to atrocities committed by a person with that name. Benedict and Adolf are part of the list, aren't they? It's hard for me to envision little boys named Benedict, Adolf, or Judas. It seems I remember a movie once where a donkey was named Judas.

Judas had traveled with Jesus and the other disciples. He was one of the original disciples — one of the chosen. Notice how the introduction of Judas comes right after the story of the woman with the alabaster box. The woman brought Jesus a container of expensive perfume, called nard, which was used to prepare people for burial. She was harshly criticized by those with Jesus, and because of how this story goes straight to Judas; it leads me to believe Judas was one of those who criticized

her. He probably resented the fact the woman was so extravagant, and he probably resented the fact, Jesus told everyone to leave her alone and appreciated her gift.

The immediate reaction of a jealous, greedy person would be to do exactly what Judas did — betray the one who criticized him. Look back at the beginning of the chapter, and you'll see how the evil planners decided to delay their evil deeds because of the coming holiday. Judas sped that up by going ahead with his evil plans.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 14:1-2 ¹*Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. ² “But not during the festival,” they said, “or the people may riot.”*

Second, JESUS PREDICTED JUDAS' BETRAYAL.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 14:17-21 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.”*

EXPLANATION: Judas is the guy we love to hate. I read recently that in several Roman Catholic countries, especially in Central and South America, they hold an unofficial Holy Week event, which ends in burning an effigy of Judas. People will gather in the public square to hang this effigy on Good Friday, abuse it by hitting it with things on Saturday, and finally, burn the figure on Easter Sunday.

Judas was one concerned about the money. It was on his mind. He had selfish greed, which outweighed any other type of emotion he may have had. Sometimes we refer to personal struggles as demons. No doubt Judas' personal demons were out of control. He betrayed the one who loved him more than anyone else.

ILLUSTRATION: Recently I was at a funeral for a friend. While conversing with the family, I asked about a man who used to be in the family but wasn't any longer because of a divorce. His ex-wife said she should have divorced him earlier. He was not a good man. He provoked his children to anger, and he stole from them. If they had something which hadn't been used in a while, it would disappear. Over a period of time, he stole quite a bit from his own family. He was mean to people and was childish in his thinking. His wife told him he would die a lonely man. That's exactly what happened and little wonder why. After years of lying, deceit, manipulation, and theft, no one wanted to be around him anymore. He had betrayed his own family. And, he died a lonely man.

Third, JUDAS' BETRAYAL OF JESUS WAS COSTLY.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 27:1-5 ¹*“Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. ² So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor.*

³ *When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. ⁴ “I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.”*

“What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.”

⁵ *So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.”*

EXPLANATION: Judas, consumed with money, betrayed Jesus with 30 pieces of silver. Yet, because of his guilt, he returned the money and took his own life --- so much for Judas. On the cross, Jesus would say, *“Father forgive them, because they don't know what they are doing.”* The heart of Jesus is all about forgiveness. I've thought about what Jesus said many times. Jesus asked the Father to forgive them whether they asked for forgiveness or not. I believe we should also try to live in such a state of spiritual mindedness—that of forgiving people whether they ask for it or not.

Judas, in his despair, committed suicide. How could he ever overcome betraying Jesus? How could he ever face those disciples again? How could his life ever get back to normal? He saw no other way out.

Fourth, PETER DENIED JESUS AND WAS LATER RESTORED.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 14:27-31 ²⁷ “You will all fall away,” Jesus told them, “for it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’” ²⁸ But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.” 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.”

SCRIPTURE: Mark 14:66-72 ⁶⁶ While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷ When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. “You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,” she said.

⁶⁸ But he denied it. “I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about,” he said, and went out into the entryway. ⁶⁹ When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, “This fellow is one of them.” ⁷⁰ Again he denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.”

⁷¹ He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know this man you’re talking about.” ⁷² Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times.” And he broke down and wept.”

EXPLANATION: Now we have Peter. Jesus told Peter he would deny him three times before the rooster crowed twice that night. Peter denied he would deny him. On the night Jesus was arrested, the disciples fled. Peter was no doubt distraught. The military were all around. There was a sense of despair and evil in the air. Peter warmed himself by a campfire, no doubt afraid and uncertain. Up until now, Peter had been an eager learner, one who defended Jesus by both his words and actions. He did not have greed or jealousy in his heart like Judas.

The difference in Judas and Peter was Peter allowed himself to be restored. He felt terrible for what he had done. He knew there was no way he could make up for denying Jesus other than repenting. Did Jesus forgive him? Yes, indeed! And, he became a mighty apostle in the early Church.

When Judas killed himself, he eliminated the possibility of being restored. Judas had heard Jesus tell people, “Go and sin no more.”

Later, after he arose, Jesus said this:

SCRIPTURE: John 21:15-19 ¹⁵ *When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”* ¹⁶ *Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”* ¹⁷ *The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”* ¹⁸ *Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.”* ¹⁹ *Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”*

APPLICATION: Now, what would have happened if Judas had allowed Jesus to restore him? Allow Jesus to restore you. No matter your situation, Jesus can restore you. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, “*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here.*”

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Sincerely, Paul Gunn
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