

The Last Supper

March 29, 2020

For this lesson, we will be reading & analyzing the story of the Last Supper and Judas' betrayal.

Read Matthew 26: 14-30

¹⁴Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests ¹⁵and 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. ¹⁶From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over. ¹⁷On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?” ¹⁸He replied, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.’” ¹⁹So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover. ²⁰When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. ²¹And while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” ²²They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, “Surely you don’t mean me, Lord?” ²³Jesus replied, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴The 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.” ²⁵Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, “Surely you don’t mean me, Rabbi?” Jesus answered, “You have said so.” ²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” ²⁷Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” ³⁰When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Read the attached article: ***Judas: Profile of a Betrayer***

Judas thought that his betrayal was a secret. Then Jesus called him out in front of everyone.

Questions to the story:

- How do you think Judas felt at the beginning of the meal?
- How do you think Judas felt when Jesus said, “One of you will betray me”?
- How do you think Judas felt when Jesus confirmed it was him?
- How do you think he felt when still invited to break bread and drink wine with Jesus?

Questions relating to you personally:

- Have you ever done something you knew was wrong and gotten away with it?
- Have you ever done something you knew was wrong and been caught?
- How did you feel in each situation?

But let's look at how other people respond. At the Last Supper between Jesus and his disciples, Jesus reveals Judas' plans to everyone. Yet, we never hear how the other disciples responded.

- How do you think the other disciples felt when hearing of Judas' plan to betray Jesus?
- How do you think you would have responded to this news if you were a disciple?

Now imagine the conversation that might have occurred after the Last Supper with Jesus and before his arrest when Jesus left to pray in the garden of Gethsemane.

Activities:

1. Move something in your house to a new/different location. (Examples: Move a dining room chair to the living room by the TV. Or place the kitchen garbage can in another room.) Move something (without breaking or harming anyone/thing) to a location that it shouldn't be. Then see how long it takes for someone to notice it out of place. You need to pretend like this thing is normally where it is and not draw attention to its' "new" temporary location. When someone finally notices this difference, *how did they react? Are they unsure why this thing has moved? Do they question why it has moved? Do they just move it back without questioning why it was misplaced?* After someone has noticed this misplaced item, talk with them about what they thought when they found it. Just like the other disciples in the bible reading, maybe they were confused or unsure what to think of the situation. Discuss with them how this item being moved can be compared to the disciples' reactions to hearing that Judas would betray Jesus.
2. Try eating with your less dominate hand during your next meal with your family. It may feel different to you, almost like you're hiding something from everyone. Again, don't make it obvious, but see if anyone notices. If they do, *what might they say? How might they feel? What if they don't notice you're eating with the wrong hand? Does that make you sneaky or make them unaware?* Think about how Judas was hiding that he was going to betray Jesus. *Do you think maybe he was nervous? Do you think that the other disciples noticed he was nervous or trying to hide something?* After you try this, discuss this with your family or friends what they think and how they feel.

Self -Prayer: (Suggestion: Be thankful for family and friends who have us in their best interest.)

Judas: Profile of a Betrayer

Judas Iscariot basically is known for one thing: betraying Jesus. According to the Gospel of Matthew, Judas agreed to turn Jesus over to the chief priests for thirty pieces of silver. Judas' betrayal earned him a permanent bad rap. The Gospel writers hardly ever mention Judas without also mentioning his crime. They refer to him as "Judas, who betrayed Jesus" or "Judas, who became a traitor."



Now, some may say that Judas deserves his bad rap. The punishment fits the crime, right? On the other hand, no one wants to be known only for his or her worst action—especially if that action was betraying the Savior of the world. The reality is Judas was a complex human being. He followed Jesus for years along with the other eleven disciples. He traveled around with them, teaching, preaching, and healing in Jesus' name. It's not entirely clear what led Judas to betray Jesus in the end. Judas is such an intriguing character that lots of ideas have sprung up to explain his actions.

- Some early Christians figured that Judas would do such a terrible thing only because he was being influenced by Satan. The Gospels of Luke and John say that Satan entered into Judas before he carried out the betrayal.
 - There's also the idea that the betrayal was part of God's plan. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says that Judas' actions fulfill Psalm 41:9: "Even my good friend, the one I trusted, who shared my food, has kicked me with his heel—a betrayer!"
 - An ancient Christian text called the Gospel of Judas takes a different view. In this text, Judas was a good friend of Jesus and understood his true message. Jesus asked Judas to turn him over to the authorities, because he knew his execution was necessary. (The Gospel of Judas wasn't chosen to be part of the Bible, because early Christian leaders chose only the texts they thought were true and helpful.)
- 

Over the centuries, people have continued to wonder about Judas. Modern retellings of the Gospel story, such as the Broadway musical "Jesus Christ Superstar," explore Judas' motives even further. Despite all these attempts to explain Judas' betrayal, questions remain. If Satan influenced Judas, was he acting of his own free will? If the betrayal was part of God's plan, how can Judas be blamed for it? What really motivated Judas to betray his friend and teacher? How did Judas feel after everything went down? What do you think? Write or draw your thoughts about Judas.