

Worthy is the Lamb

Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

Matthew 26:14-19

-We saw last week the "Frangrance of Brokenness."

-We saw a woman lavishly, publicly, and extravagantly worship Jesus from a sincere and contrite heart. Jesus even said this woman's story would be told wherever his gospel was preached.

And now we come the stunning juxtaposition Matthew has penned for us. We come to Judas Iscariot's betrayal of Jesus.

The name Judas Iscariot still 2000 years later carries a certain weight with the mere mention.

We can be tempted to gloss over these words and rush through, but there is something for us, especially us, in the betrayal of Jesus of Nazareth by Judas Iscariot

Why would someone ever betray Jesus?

-This man has done no wrong

-He has shown only kindness to the hurting, righteous anger to oppressors, and has never spoken evil of anyone.

How could a person betray Jesus?

1. **Those who betray Jesus do so because they are blind to his glory, his worth, and his majesty.**

Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?"

Plummer, a commentator on the Greek text says, "Then (tote) is meant to imply that the anointing led directly to the betrayal."¹

-Mary of Bethany saw the infinite worth of Jesus and poured out worship, whereas Judas saw this outpouring as a waste. (25k)

-This is the way idolatry works.

-Idolatry is simply the supreme valuing anything above God, putting anything but God in the place of God, looking to anything to meet your needs that only your benevolent Father was meant to meet.

¹Leon Morris, *The Gospel According to Matthew*, Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1992).

There is in this text a particular warning shot and indictment on the love of money, and we would be wise to heed Scripture's warning.

-We live in an incredibly wealthy area

-And for all of those who don't feel like they are reeling it in, you don't have to have a lot of money to have money control your heart. not just maniacal love

"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Matthew 6:24

The next sections goes directly into worry

So, how does a person fall into betraying Jesus? —>We start by letting something else grip our hearts.

It's not only money, but anything we'd come to God for, willing to exchange him for: "What will you give to me..." (relationship, healing, ease, status)

read "And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him."

-Now it's remarkable that the agreed upon price for a slave is 30 pieces of silver

-We know from Exodus 21:32 that was the price of a slave...we'll revisit that a little later.

Judas betrays Jesus for some silver.

He is blind.

Brothers and sisters, he is the King of kings and the Lord of lords, the Ancient of Days, his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and will never pass away, nor will his kingdom ever be destroyed. He is all-powerful, all-wise, and all-knowing. He is always good and always in control. One day every knee will bow and every tongue confess that he alone is Lord.

Do you see the glory of the God-Man Jesus?

Therefore, we must say, "There's nothing worth keeping if it's keeping us from Jesus"²

-Any sum in exchange for eternal communion with the King of kings and Lord of lords is a declaration of complete bankruptcy, spiritual suicide, a dive into economic oblivion.

yet we see in v16, "And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him."

And we'd be wise to examine our own hearts.

- Is Jesus enough for you?
- Are you coming to him to get something other than him?
- What would it be to betray Jesus
 - Money (fudging the books, gray areas in your tax returns)
 - Sex (adopting a sex ethic foreign to the Bible because of love, a mental fantasy life)
 - Not looking bad (an unwillingness to confess your sins to a brother or sister that you may be healed? That'll rot your bones)

And let's not assume that we're beyond falling. Let us not think that we could never betray Jesus

² from Beautiful Eulogy's song, "Mosaic."

We must examine ourselves soberly, but let us also look to Jesus, because we have to see his glory. We must look to him and live (Numbers 21:8)

read verses 17-19

Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

The greatest betrayal in all of history and Jesus is going to make a meal?

-It seems too tragic [lunch yesterday]

-There's something going on underneath the text

2. Passover Prepared

*To see Jesus in his glory we must understand him in light of the whole Bible.

-Christ is in all the Scriptures. He is the point of every book, the hero of story, the climax of every plot, the fulfillment of every promise.

Matthew lets us know that it's the Feast of Unleavened Bread/Passover

-God made a promise to Abraham: many descendants, land

-400 years later and the Jews are many, but they're slaves in Egypt. No land.

-Finally, God shows up to Moses in Ex 3 and says, "I've heard your cry, I'm going to free them."

-So he works signs and wonders through Moses, doing all kinds of plagues to show He alone is God and free them from the tyranny of Pharaoh.

-Well this culminates in a 10th display of God's power and judgment—>death of firstborn son

-not only the Egyptians mind you, everyone

-Unless, the blood of a lamb was on the doorpost

It was the blood of a lamb that caused the Angel of Death to passover

-The plague happens. Pharaoh frees the Jews of their slavery and 2 million people exit Egypt.

This is what they are to remember and celebrate at this Feast every year.

But the astonishing truth we see as we approach the coming King in the NT is that the essential salvation event of the Old Testament was only ever a foreshadowing.

Christ is the Passover Lamb (1 Cor 5:7)

-God showed up in the wilderness and said now is the time. I'm going to free my people.

-Jesus, in the midst of betrayal, says I'm in control, my time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house.

They thought they were preparing Passover for him, but what they don't know is the True Passover Lamb is being prepared for them.

Jesus, the eternal, sinless, spotless, all-powerful Son of God will spill his own blood to set free all those who would believe from their slavery to sin.

-You see what's so crazy is within a few months of being freed from their slavery in Egypt, the Israelites make idols and worship them. (Acts 7:39-40a)

-We need a deeper setting free.

When we look to anything other than Jesus, live for anything else, or look to Jesus for anything other than Jesus, we simply show ourselves to be slaves.

But the gospel is that the he who was forever free and Lord of all became a servant, *doulos* in Greek, literally slave of all on our behalf that we who were slaves to sin, self, and Satan might be set free as we believe on him. Christ has done it all!

The sacrifice he made was to pay for our betrayal of him, to set free the slaves who betrayed him for the price of the slave.

3. See Jesus is His Glory and Repent!

What is so tragic about Judas is he ends his life in vain regret.

- He kills himself
- He never really repents
- He feels some guilt and remorse

Maybe you are sitting there and realizing a sense of your own sin.

-Acknowledge it, don't dismiss it, but then take it Jesus. See in him the good news that he willingly gave his life for the forgiveness of all who would believe on him.

But you need to be set free! All who sin are slaves to sin...but if the Son sets you free, you are free indeed!

Look upon the Lamb in his glory

And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.”

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb

be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Revelation 5:6–14

Worthy is the Lamb!

- Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
- Worthy is the Lamb who took away the sins of the world
- Worthy is the Lamb who took up his life again
- Worthy is the Lamb who will never die again!

Amen and amen.