

Mark 14:10-11 The Danger of Not Valuing Jesus Falls Ch. PM 6/30/2024
What caused Judas to become the betrayer of Christ?

Mark presented these two verses as a warning to us. Judas was so close to Jesus, and yet missed Him!

The presence of a grudging attitude towards Christ and His work in the world is always a warning sign of danger to oneself and danger to others from a heart not valuing Jesus.

1. The grave fact of the betrayal by Judas, who despite being chosen by Jesus to be one of His twelve disciples, revealed his heart's false profession when he held back from serving Jesus, and now turned back from serving Jesus, in contrast to the woman who revealed her heart's true profession when she anointed Jesus. (v.10a)

Verse 10a, *"Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve..."*

The first word in our passage is the word *"then."* There is an explicit link between a woman's action to anoint Jesus, and a disciple's action to betray Jesus.

Judas was one of those mentioned in verse 4, who would have loved to get his hands on some of the money that the woman had just wasted on Jesus.

Afterwards, Judas looked for a way to betray Jesus in exchange for money.

<u>The woman who anointed Jesus</u>	<u>Judas</u>
An unnamed woman w/ no position	a named man, one of the 12 apostles
She gave what she could to Jesus	he took what he could get for Jesus
She blessed her Lord	he betrayed his Lord
She loved her Lord	he used his Lord
She did a beautiful thing	he did a terrible thing
She served Jesus as her Savior	he sold Jesus like He was a slave
She notable forever - her heart of love	he - notorious forever - his betrayal

What caused Judas to betray Jesus? Judas had one of the highest spiritual privileges in the history of the world. Judas was one of only 12 people, hand-picked by Jesus to be close followers.

Jesus had promised dazzling rewards. Mark 10:29-30, Jesus said if anyone left a house or land or family member for the gospel, they would receive 100 times as much.

Was Judas banking on that? Was Judas ready for difficulties – was he ready for there to be a lot suffering for Jesus and a lot of suffering for His followers?

Consider Mark 8:31, where *"...Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again."*

Judas had lived in the presence of Jesus for a few years. Judas had traveled with Jesus down many roads. Judas had shared many meals with Jesus. Judas had heard the strength in the voice of Jesus when Jesus stilled the storm or cursed the

barren fig tree. And Judas had also heard the tenderness in the voice of Jesus when Jesus pleaded with sinners. Judas had listened to many of the Savior's marvelous messages. Judas had heard the decisive and authoritative answers that Jesus gave to the many questions that others hurled at Jesus. Judas had observed how Jesus could not be trapped. Whenever sick people were brought to Jesus, those were moments that Judas could see with his own eyes how the Great Physician gently restored many lame persons. Judas saw all of this and much more. Another apostle wrote over in John 21:25, "*Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.*" Who can even begin to imagine all that Judas had the opportunity to observe? Consider the words of Jesus Himself, who knew that many people throughout the subsequent years of world history would yearn to see what Judas saw. Matthew 13:17, Jesus said, "*For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.*"

What did Judas end up doing with all of these privileges? In our passage, Mark gave us the answer. One day, as The Passover approached, Judas somehow decided to deliver up his teacher - his compassionate, powerful, wise Rabbi - into the hands of cruel men. What did Judas do with privileges? He betrayed Jesus. Why? For silver! It was lack of repentance that destroyed Judas.

2. The unhumorous scene that after Judas had just witnessed the woman's beautiful and extravagant anointing of Jesus, then Judas departed at once from there in order to offer to provide to His killers the key information to deliver over Jesus quietly, which convinced them to arrest Jesus during the feast, in exchange for their promise of silver. (v.10b)

Verse 10b, when Judas, "*...went to the chief priests in order to betray [Jesus] to them.*"

Mark showed that the woman's anointing of Jesus served as a catalyst to bring Judas and the chief priests together. Judas could not tell the difference between seeing beautiful grace in the loving heart of a true believer, and seeing a waste of money. More importantly, Judas could not see the outpouring of love in the heart of Jesus Himself towards sinners such as Judas himself. Judas fell into the error of not valuing Jesus.

We learn in verse 10 that Judas reacted to the anointing event by changing sides. What did Judas do right after the anointing? Answer: he "*went to the chief priests...*" There was an opposing camp out there, which Judas would have noticed during the temple teaching of Jesus. Now Judas went out to find that group, and to find some cash. By his physical moving from the location of the anointing to the location of the chief priests, the author showed that Judas had reversed alliances.

For Judas, his many spiritual privileges were not enough. Being constantly around the teaching of Christ's Word was not enough. Attending the places that Christ was preaching was not enough. What was missing for Judas was a personal trust in the Savior to cleanse Judas of his sins. What the woman had – that Judas did not have - was a love for her Savior, who had first loved her.

3. The grim evidence was that partially motivated by greed, Judas began seeking how/when to turn Jesus over to the religious leaders motivated by murderous hatred and their need for stealth to avoid an uproar. (v.11)

In verse 11, Mark reported the gladness of the religious leaders to hear that a disciple of Jesus was defecting and coming over to be their helper! They were delighted when Judas offered to provide them insider information about the whereabouts of Jesus. The offer of Judas was quickly accepted by the chief priests and teachers. Previously in verse 2, they had concluded that they would not arrest Jesus during the week of the Passover feast. Suddenly now, they were willing, with the crucial help of Judas, to arrest Jesus during the week of the Passover feast.

The word “*opportunity*” in verse 11 showed that Judas teamed up with the chief priests to focus on solving the problem of the timing of the feast and large crowds. The religious leaders needed someone who could inform them of the movements of Jesus, especially where Jesus could be found at night for His lodging.

Judas initiated the idea. They had not approached Judas with an attempt to recruit Judas. Rather, Judas had approached them. It had not been within the realm of expectation or imagination of the religious leaders that one of the Twelve would be so wretched.

How did Judas know that the religious leaders would be open to this? It was obvious through the hostility that the Jerusalem authorities expressed during the preceding confrontations in the temple that to them, Jesus was a wanted man. Another way that Judas could have found out was the announcement we read from another apostle in John 11:57, “*Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where He was, he should let them know, so that they might arrest him.*”

The money was mentioned in verse 11, and the Greek word is silver. The religious leaders promised to pay a certain sum of silver. The religious leaders and Judas agreed upon the amount of silver. We know from another report, the one provided by Matthew over in Matthew 26, that before Judas walked away from that talk, the chief priests actually fetched the money and handed the silver to Judas right away. Listen to Matthew 26:15, “*...and they paid him thirty pieces of silver.*”

The religious leaders knew that if Judas had the money in his possession, he would not dare to back out of the agreement.

What about the amount? Exodus 21:32, the law of God showed that if a slave was gored to death by an ox, the value to be given to the master of that slave was 30 pieces of silver. Zechariah 11:12-13 the 30 pieces of silver was prophesied. Matthew 26:15, the amount that Judas received was 30 pieces of silver.

Each silver coin was worth about 70 cents, so they handed him about \$20. Even though it was such a small sum of money, Judas still would be obligated to follow through with his action to betray his own Master. After receiving the money, the traitor watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to these men.

The apostle John's report adds to our sense of the spiritual danger. Listen to John 13:27, "...*Satan entered into [Judas.]*"

Since Judas could not understand the woman's breaking of the flask of ointment to pour onto Jesus, then in just a couple of days, Judas would also not understand the cross, when Jesus Himself would be broken and His life poured out.

Conclusion:

1. Remember that there is a difference between position and possessing new life in Christ. Judas is a permanent memorial to remind all of us. Everything we see in our lives and everything that we could ever see in the church is already there in the Bible. Over the years, I have met people with extraordinary giftedness some who were deacons or elders or pastors, or missionaries, who actually ended up denying Jesus and walking away from the church altogether. The lesson of Judas is why each other failure does not remain a permanent puzzle to us how that could happen. Hebrews 6:4-6, "...*it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding Him up to contempt.*" Judas had tasted the powers of the age to come. But then Judas fell away. It is possible for someone to have extraordinary powers, and yet not to have saving grace. How can that be true? If someone can spend nearly 3 years with Jesus, and yet this is true of him, then we know that it can be true. At the table, Jesus said one of you will betray me, and each of the disciples asked, "Is it me?" It is healthy and right to ask that question. It is possible to be an apostle in the 12, and still be an apostate. There is a difference between position and possessing new life in Christ.

2. Guard yourself against the love of money. 1 Timothy 6:10, "...*the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.*"

Judas was the treasurer of the disciples. He had access to the money. He stole money. But Judas never came in repentance to Jesus, to be cleansed of wrongdoing, forgiven and restored. Jesus washed the feet of unrepentant Judas in

John chapter 13. Judas had not come to conviction. How can Judas watch Jesus wash his feet, but not repent? Something had happened to the conscience of Judas long before that night. Listen to John 13:21-26, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”* 22 *The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke.* 23 *One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side,* 24 *so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking.* 25 *So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, “Lord, who is it?”* 26 *Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it.”* So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.”

When Judas was betraying Jesus, who would know Judas would not repent?

When Peter was denying Jesus, who would know Peter would repent?

Denying and betraying look the same while they are happening.

Judas is here as a permanent warning for us, so don't minimize your failures and assume that you are Peter just going through a dark period. Don't wait. Turn to Jesus now, before you reach a point when you are no longer capable of repenting, like Judas.

Looking all the way back, it could be that it was greed that first caused Judas to follow Christ in the first place, with the offer that he could be the cash-keeper for the group. Looking all the way forward to the end, it seems that Judas found a way to get money from both sides. Judas stole money from the cash of Jesus and the group, and Judas also got money from the killers of Jesus. Because of a love of money, Judas seemed just as ready to betray Jesus for money at the end, as Judas was to follow Jesus at the beginning in order to steal money.

Knowledge, giftedness, profession, privileges, church membership, the power of teaching, the habit of praying, and the constant talking about spiritual things are all useless if our hearts are gripped and soiled with a love of money.

Jesus warned often against the love of money. Jesus taught in Matthew 6:24, that we cannot serve both God and money at the same time. Jesus taught in Luke 12:15, *“...take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”*

We all were like Judas, but the cross of Jesus has cleansed our hearts and made us like the woman who anointed Jesus. We keep on guarding our hearts against the love of money, and cherish Jesus as our greatest treasure.

3. Value Jesus. Everything depends on whether Jesus has saved us and granted us true repentance and faith. Everything comes down to whether Jesus is keeping hold of us, and enabling us to keep trusting Jesus. Are we relying on Jesus. Are we valuing Him above all else? When we consider the sinfulness of our sin and the mercy of Christ in dying for us, we will never think anything is too much to give to Christ or His kingdom. We join with the Psalmist in asking, *“What shall I render*

to the LORD, for all His benefits to me?” Psalm 116:12. We will never regret spending ourselves and being expended for this Savior! We only concern ourselves with wasting talents, time, money and love on the things of this world. If we give ourselves fully and completely to the service of Jesus, people might call us fanatics. They might consider our lives as a waste. But we don't let such people influence us or disturb us. Since we continue to value Jesus, we will strive to serve Him with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. We may be concerned about ourselves being too fanatical about work, sports, hobbies, politics or pleasure, but we will never consider ourselves to be too fanatical about serving our Savior.

Valuing Jesus is the core. Mark presented the contrast between this woman and Judas. What is the difference? One valued Jesus. The other did not. The woman is held up as an example to us, for she received the highest commendation from Jesus. The other is held up as a warning to us as one who demonstrated the grave danger of not valuing Jesus. Judas provides the most severe warning to our souls to continue to place the proper value on Jesus. Matthew 13:44, *“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”*