**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

Sermon

*The Good News According to Mark,*

*An Apostle of Jesus Christ*

 *365 Day Disciple ~ Mark 14:16-27*

*Betrayal And Forgiveness*

August 12th In the Year of Our Lord 2018

The betrayal against Jesus was personal and, at the same time, corporate. Judas betrays Jesus and the rest of the disciples. Judas betrays Jesus’ mother (Mary) and father (Joseph) and the rest of the community of Believers who had been followers of Jesus. The Judas-betrayal was during the time of an oppressive Roman occupation. We can liken this to a time of war. Judas’ betrayal was an act of treason. In America, an act of treason can be punishable by death.

**Benedict Arnold** was an American military officer who served as a general during the American Revolutionary War and fought for the American Continental Army before betraying them to the British in 1780. [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benedict_Arnold)

In 1953, **Julius and Ethel Rosenberg** were the first American civilians executed under Section 2 of the Espionage Act for charges related to passing atomic bomb secrets to Russian agents (the data came from Ethel’s brother, who worked on the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos). Their legal prosecution was the “Trial of the Century”

https://listverse.com/2010/07/04/top-10-traitors-in-us-history/

**Last week,** we reviewed the possible reasons for Judas’ betrayal.

Most people have not looked into the ‘betrayal of all betrayals’ in world history. Here are some thoughts:

1. The Devil made him do it.
2. He had political reasons.
3. He was simply a bad man.
4. He did it for the money.
5. He was insane.
6. He was a spy from the beginning of Jesus’ ministry.
7. He had no choice. God prophesied his betrayal.

We noted last week that many scholars see Judas forcing Jesus to use His supernatural powers against the Romans and free Jewish people from their occupation. When this did not materialize, he realized he was wrong and hanged himself. The suicide of Judas showed remorse.

The Gospel of Matthew also chronicles the Judas-Betrayal.

**Matthew 27:1- 10** 1 Now when morning had come, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death;

 2 and they bound Him, and led Him away, and delivered Him up to Pilate the governor.

 3 Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See *to that* yourself!"

 5 And he threw the pieces of silver into the sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself.

 6 And the chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the temple treasury, since it is the price of blood."

 7 And they counseled together and with the money bought the Potter's Field as a burial place for strangers.

 8 For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

 9 Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one whose price had been set by the sons of Israel;

 10 and they gave them for the Potter's Field, as the Lord directed me."

 **In the book of Acts**, Luke gives a speech about Judas to the one hundred and twenty people who were present. Many scholars see Luke reference David from Psalm 69. This Psalm is about a man that is hated and betrayed by people who have no cause to hate him. It is shown that Psalm 69 has many references in the New Testament and is often quoted to substantiate God at work. This Psalm focuses on “The Servant of the Lord and the Righteous Sufferer”. Here are parallelisms: Psalm 69:4 in John 15:25; Psalm 69:9 in John 2:17 and Romans 15:3; Psalm 69:22-23 in Romans 11:9-10.

**Acts 1:15-20**

15 And at this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said,

 16 "Brethren, the **Scripture (Psalm 69)** had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.

 17 "For he was counted among us, and received his portion in this ministry."

 18 (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.

 19 And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

 20 "For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'Let his homestead be made desolate, And let no man dwell in it'; and, 'His office let another man take.'

**Psalm 109:8** Let his days be few; Let another take his office.

**Psalm 69:25** May their camp be desolate; May none dwell in their tents.

**There is a distinction in John and Luke about motive and what happened to Judas.** In Matthew’s account, there is a simple statement.

**Matthew 26:14-16** 14 Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, "What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?" And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him. 16 From then on he *began* looking for a good opportunity to betray Jesus.

The difference is in both John and Luke. In John, “the devil having already put into the heart of Judas,” and, in Luke, “And Satan entered into Judas.” This begs the question was Judas really ever “saved” considering the historic evangelical sense? Remember John 6 when Jesus said that He knew who those were from the beginning that would walk away. Those did not really believe Jesus was the Messiah who came to die for the sins of the world. They, like Judas, were pursing a Jewish Messiah to defeat the Romans and set-up a Hebrew nation.

**John’s Account of Judas’ Motive -**

**John 13:1** Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He should depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

 **2** And during supper, the **devil** having already **put into the heart** of Judas Iscariot, *the son* of Simon, to betray Him,

**Luke’s Account of Judas’ Motive -**

**Luke 22:1-6** 1 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was approaching.

 2 And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how they might put Him to death; for they were afraid of the people.

 3 And **Satan entered into Judas** who was called Iscariot, belonging to the number of the twelve.

 4 And he went away and discussed with the chief priests and officers how he might betray Him to them.

 5 And they were glad, and agreed to give him money.

 6 And he consented, and *began* seeking a good opportunity to betray Him to them apart from the multitude.

**Luke 22:47-48** 47 While He was still speaking, behold, a multitude *came*, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was preceding them; and he approached Jesus to kiss Him.

 48 But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

**Can Satan/Devil enter into the heart of a Christian**, a true follower of Jesus, a person who has surrendered to the Lord, who has been reborn of Spirit whose heart has been circumcised? NO! However, we can be tempted by the devil. We can have thoughts of the Devil as Peter did when he questioned Jesus in **Matthew 16:23**

23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

**And also in Mark 8:33,** But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

Paul gives warning to the Believers in Corinth about other men who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ.

**2 Corinthians 11:13** For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

Paul constantly faced challenges from those Jews who did not accept Christ and those Jews who looked into following Christ **but held ~~on~~** **to the Law**. Paul writes to the Galatians...

**Galatians 3:1-3** 1 You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed *as* crucified? 2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

 **Paul is blunt in writing to the Philippians,** boldly speaking of enemies of the cross of Christ whose appetite is their god, and that their minds are on earthly things. This is where Judas was. His appetite was on earthly things. He pursued an earthly Messiah.

**Philippians 3:18-21**

18 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* enemies of the cross of Christ,

 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is *their* appetite, and *whose* glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

 21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

**The seventh reason** we mentioned earlier is a common scapegoat for man. God made Pharaoh, Herod, Pilot and all the rest of the bad people in the Bible do the bad things they did. Examining all these people, we see that they were already bad, and God ‘turned them over to their own desires’. Romans 1:18 and the following verse describe these people. Judas was who he was from the beginning, and Jesus knew that just like Jesus knew those who walked away in John 6. God did not make Judas betray Jesus. No doubt, Judas was a tormented soul. Proof of this is in the fact that he took his own life.

There is a difference in “God knew ahead of time” what someone was going to do and “making them do it.” Foreknowledge is God’s power to know all things. We still have free-will-choice. Did God know Adam and Eve would choose to eat from the forbidden tree? Yes. But His love for them extended them a choice just like God extends us today. God allows us to make our own choices.

**A Personal Look at Betrayal**

Ever had someone betray you? I mean for something important. I mean the kind of betrayal that went against you and everything for which you stand. The feeling is sickening and does not go away overnight. Some people throw away their careers and family for their own pursuits.

We all have worked or are working for someone. In our day-to- day work, we make friends and over time make close friends with the people with whom we work or serve. Most professions today have a tremendous amount of educational requirements and then, once you are hired, there are constant in-service training programs. There is a lot of time and expense that goes into getting and keeping a job.

It is disappointing when someone purposely commits an act at work that goes against every person as an individual and the code in which everyone lives. Here are two Americans that betrayed their country.

**Aldrich Ames** began working for the CIA during high school and did so until he was discovered to be a Soviet double agent in 1994. He specialized in selling the identities of CIA agents, placed within the KGB, to the KGB. In true cloak-and-dagger fashion, Ames would mark a blue postal drop box with a piece of chalk whenever he needed to contact his KGB handlers. The damage he caused US intelligence efforts can’t really be known, but conservative estimates indicate that he exposed over 100 agents and was directly responsible for at least 10 deaths. A thorough accounting of his finances revealed that he and his wife made over $4.6 million over the course of their espionage career. Ames explained the full extent of his activities as part of a plea bargain to mitigate his wife’s sentence (how gallant). As a result, Ames was sentenced to life in prison, while his wife received 63 months.

**Robert Hanssen** is a former FBI agent who spied for Soviet and Russian intelligence services against the United States for 22 years (1979 to 2001). During his espionage career Hanssen compromised scores of investigations and operations,



These two men betrayed every American and every person in the free world and for what? Both were paid a lot of money. However, they both failed to honor the lives of others. They, too, were who they were from the day that they were hired by the government.

**Mark 14 Text**

16 And the disciples went out, and came to the city,

and found *it* just as He had told them;

and they prepared the Passover.

 17 And when it was evening He came with the twelve.

 18 And as they were reclining *at the table* and eating,

Jesus said,

"Truly I say to you that one of you will **betray** Me—

one who is eating with Me."

**Like Jesus, David was betrayed by someone close to him.**

**David writes in the 41st Psalm**

9 Even my close friend, in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me. **(Psalm. 41:9)**

**2 Samuel 15:12** And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city Giloh, while he was offering the sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong, for the people increased continually with Absalom.

**2 Samuel 17:23** Now when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled *his* donkey and arose and went to his home, to his city, and set his house in order, and strangled himself; thus he died and was buried in the grave of his father.

**Job 19:19** "All my associates abhor me, And those I love have turned against me.

**John 13:18** "I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but *it is* that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats My bread has lifted up his heel against Me.' (Genesis 3:15)

**Mark 14 continued. . .**

 19 They began to be **grieved** and to say to Him one by one,

"Surely not I?"

 20 And He said to them,

 *"It is* one of the twelve, one who dips with Me in the bowl.

 21 "For the **Son of Man** *is to* go, **just as it is written** of Him;

but woe to that man by whom the **Son of Man** is betrayed!

*It would have been* good for that man if he had not been born."

The self-designation, “**The Son of Man**” by Jesus, is worthy of discussion. In all four Gospels, the phrase can be found. Except for John 12:34, Jesus speaks this term. In Acts 7:56, Stephen uses the term. In Daniel 7:13, we also find the term.

13 "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of **heaven One like a Son of Man** was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him.

 Reference: Millard Erickson, “The Word Became Flesh”

(Baker Book House Company 1991; page 18,19; ISBN 0-8010-3208-3)

skillfully classifies the phrase “**Son of Man**” into three categories.

1. A **servant** role on earth.

Matthew 9:6, 12:28; Mark 2:10, 2:28; Luke 5:24, 6:5

1. **Suffer, die and rise** from the dead.

Mark 8:31, 9:9,31, 10:33,34; Luke 9:22,44, 18:31-33; Matthew 17:19, 22-23, 20:18-19

1. **Return** in Eschatological glory.

Matthew16:27; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26

Anyone, after reviewing Jesus’ self-designations in the Bible can easily conclude that Jesus is proclaiming that He is the long-awaited Messiah and is fulfilling Old Testament Scripture.

Erikson continues the study with an examination of the phrase “**Son of God.”** This designation combined with the “**Son of Man”** leaves no doubt that Jesus is the incarnation of God as prophesied in the Old Testament.

**Mark 14 continued**

 22 And while they were eating, He took *some* bread,

and after a blessing He broke *it*; and gave *it* to them, and said,

"Take *it*; this is My **body**."

 23 And when He had taken a cup, *and* given thanks,

He gave *it* to them; and they all drank from it.

 24 And He said to them,

"This is My **blood** of the covenant, which is poured out for many.

 25 "Truly I say to you,

I shall never again drink of the fruit of the vine

until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

 26 And after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

 27 And Jesus said to them,

"You will all fall away, because it is written,

'I will strike down the shepherd,

and the sheep shall be scattered.' Zechariah 13:7

 28 "But after I have been raised,

 I will go before you to Galilee."

**What do we take away from the Judas-Betrayal?**

1. God’s prophecy is fulfilled.
2. Fallen Man is predictable because his heart is evil continually. This means that man’s heart plots against God and His ways all the time. (Genesis 6:5; Romans 3:23)
3. Forgiveness – From the Cross, Jesus calls-out, “Father forgive them for they do not know what they do.”
4. We may become frustrated and disappointed and may at the time of the betrayal get mad. We are Believers in a fallen world and have fallen human emotion with which to contend. However, we turn to Christ, and we think about His words from the Cross about forgiveness. Jesus did not say from the Cross that Judas was excluded from forgiveness. We know Judas lost his temporal life.

5 *I have decided* to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus (1 Corinthians 5:5).

Like Jesus, did we pray for those who have betrayed us? We pray that they seek forgiveness and see the destruction they created. Remember, Judas: 3 Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See *to that* yourself!"

 5 And he threw the pieces of silver into the sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself.

Forgiveness is not letting the person who offended you ‘off the hook’. Forgiveness is letting you off the hook of hard feelings that could develop into bitterness and hate. The person committing the offense will one day answer to God.

**It is a good thing that the Lord stays with us even though we are suffering the consequences of our decisions. Looking at the Hebrew people in the Exodus, we see God did not abandon them.**

**Nehemiah 9:17-19**

17 "And they refused to listen, And did not remember Thy wondrous deeds which Thou hadst performed among them; So they became stubborn and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. **But Thou art a God of forgiveness**, Gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness; And Thou didst not forsake them.

 18 "Even when they made for themselves A calf of molten metal And said, 'This is your God Who brought you up from Egypt,' And committed great blasphemies,

 19 Thou, in Thy great compassion, **Didst not forsake them** in the wilderness; The pillar of cloud did not leave them by day, To guide them on their way, Nor the pillar of fire by night, to light for them the way in which they were to go.

**And so, the Lord is with us. AMEN**

Additional Old Testament reference prophesying Jesus is the “Suffering Righteous Servant.” Isaiah writes for God over 700 years before the birth of Jesus.

**Isaiah 53:3-12**  3 He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

 4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

 5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

 7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.

 8 By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living, For the transgression of my people to whom the stroke *was due*?

 9 His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

 10 But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting *Him* to grief; If He would render Himself *as* a guilt offering, He will see *His* offspring, He will prolong *His* days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.

 11 As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see *it* and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities.

 12 Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.