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# FOLLOWERS

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October 26, 2014  
Celebration | 8:45 am  
Pastor Dave Mitchell

## Judas Iscariot: Followers vs. Fakers

John 11:16, 14:5, 20:19-29

### Followers of Jesus:

Remain humble as a follower of Jesus, in light of imperfections and mistakes.

- Followers can have selfish motivations at times. Luke 22:24, Matthew 19:27
- Followers can have doubts about God's plans. John 14:5, 20:25
- Followers can impulsively deny Jesus to others. Luke 22:55-62

### Fakers for Jesus:

Evaluate if you look like a follower of Jesus on the outside, but inside are motivated for selfish gain.

John 12:1-7, 13:21-30, II Corinthians 11:13-15

Are you faking it spiritually?

- Because you do not connect personally with Jesus' life and mission. John 6:61-65; 12:7-8
- Because you are disappointed and disillusioned with Jesus' plans for your life. Matthew 26:14-16
- Because you do not admit or confess your sins to Jesus. John 13:10-11, Matthew 26:25
- Because you persist in a calculated disobedience to Jesus with no repentance. Matthew 27:1-5
- Therefore, you can be subject to Satan's destructive plans. John 7:70, 13:1-2, 13:25

### Faith in Jesus:

Trust that God will overcome evil and accomplish His purposes.

Luke 22:21-22, Acts 2:23-24

- Jesus will never stop loving you, even if you fail. John 13:1-5
- Jesus will reach out to you when you are wrong. Matthew 26:20-21, John 13:23-27

## Digging Deeper:

Judas Iscariot has been called a devil, traitor and betrayer of Jesus. No one wants that on their obituary. Yet, he lived with Jesus for about three years. He heard most of Jesus' messages and witnessed some unbelievable miracles such as raising the dead, healing the lepers and giving sight to the blind. Even though he was privileged to serve so close to Jesus, he was actually very far from Jesus, spiritually speaking. This should create some awareness in each of our hearts that we can actually live as though we are close to Jesus and yet be posing or faking it the whole time. Outward appearances do not always accurately reflect the inward reality of our hearts. There is a big difference between a follower and faker of Jesus.

### Facts about Judas:

- Judas' name is a form of Judah meaning "Jehovah leads."
- Iscariot refers to where he was from, Kerioth, a town south of Judea.
- Treasurer for the disciples of Jesus. John 12:5-6, 13:29
- Selected as one of twelve disciples. Matthew 10:4, Luke 6:15
- Jesus referred to Judas as 'devil'. John 6:70-71
- Criticized Mary for anointing Jesus with expensive perfume. John 12:4-8
- Talked with Jesus at the last supper. Matthew 26:23-25, John 13:27-28
- Devil entered his heart at the last supper. John 13:2
- Betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Matthew 26:14-16; 47-51

## LifeGroup Discussion:

Because Judas served with Jesus and the other eleven disciples for three years, it is amazing that none of the other disciples ever identified Judas' heart of betrayal. Even at the Last Supper with communion, they did not pick up on Jesus' recognition of Judas as His betrayer.

1. Read John 13:23-30. Why do you think the other disciples did not identify Judas as the one to betray Jesus?
2. Read II Corinthians 11:13-15. Judas was controlled by Satan. What does this passage teach you about the external appearance of Satan? How does that explain why the other disciples did not recognize Judas as a betrayer of Jesus?
3. God is in control even when evil people like Judas seem to succeed. Read the Old Testament prophecy and fulfillment in the New Testament below. How does that help you trust in God's sovereign control over evil?
  - Prediction of betrayal by a friend Psalm 41:9 and John 13:18
  - Prediction of 30 pieces of silver: Zechariah 11:12-13 and Matthew 27:9-10
4. Jesus identifies Judas as 'devil'. Note the progression of the devil in Judas' life.
  - John 7:70 - Serving Jesus but Judas is susceptible to the devil's influence
  - John 13:1-2 - The devil puts the idea of betrayal in his heart
  - John 13:25 - The devil enters Judas to empower his betrayal

What did Christ do to help us overcome the devil in Hebrews 2:14 and I John 3:8?

5. Sin progresses to cause us spiritual failure. Read James 1:13-16 which reveals the progression of evil from temptation.
  - Does God tempt us to sin?
  - What causes us to be tempted?
  - What does lust seek to do?
  - What happens after sin?
  - What steps can you identify that leads to sin from this passage?

## Next Steps:

1. **Join in 'Following Jesus', Calvary's ongoing discipleship ministry, to grow in your heart and mind as a true follower of Jesus.** This is a great course to go through, whether you are a new follower of Jesus, or want to become more grounded in the basics of Christianity. Learn more at [calvarylife.org/discipleship](http://calvarylife.org/discipleship)
2. **Invite family and friends to join you at Light the Night.** This event is a good opportunity to introduce them to Calvary Church, where they can encounter the genuine love of Christ. Light the Night is this Friday, October 31 from 5:30 - 8:30 pm. Learn more at [calvarylife.org/ltn](http://calvarylife.org/ltn)