
the **FOLLOWERS**

October 26, 2014
Elevation | 10:45 am
Pastor Matt Davis

Judas Iscariot: The Follower Who Faked It

John 6,12,13 + Matthew 26,27

Not all who claim to follow Jesus are faithful to Him

We can be FAKERS on the INSIDE

Jesus knows the heart of a faker. John 6:64

"But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him." (John 6:64)

Prophecies of Jesus' betrayal

Psalm 41:9; Psalm 55:12-14; Zechariah 11:12-13; Matthew 27:9-10; John 13:18

We can become disillusioned with Jesus. John 12:1-7; Matthew 26:6-13

"From then on he began looking for a good opportunity to betray Jesus." (Matthew 26:16)

We become disillusioned when Jesus doesn't meet our expectations John 12:1-7

"But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor people?" Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it." (John 12:4-6)

We turn our backs on Jesus when He doesn't give us what we want Matthew 26:6-13

"Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, 'What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?'" (Matthew 26:14)

We can be FOLLOWERS on the OUTSIDE

We can look like a disciple. We can smell like a disciple. It doesn't mean we are a disciple. John 6:60-71

"And He was saying, 'For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.' As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore." John 6:65-66

We can give our lives to Jesus but never give Him our hearts John 6

Jesus answered them, "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?" John 6:70

Our outward living can not only fool others, but we can fool ourselves. Matthew 26:22-23; John 13:2-4,10-11,18,21-30

"And Judas, who was betraying Him, said, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" Jesus said to him, 'You have said it yourself.'" (Matthew 26:25)

Jesus invites us to FOLLOW Him from the INSIDE OUT

Jesus knows our hearts and still invites us. Matthew 26:26

"While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.'" (Matthew 26:26)

Truth One: We never find in sin what we entered into sin to find.

Truth Two: Sin always takes you farther than you thought you were going to go.

Digging Deeper:

General Information on Judas

- Judas was the treasurer for the group of disciples; was a thief. John 12:5-6; 13:29
- Judas betrayed Jesus, felt remorse, threw the blood money in the temple and hanged himself. The chief priest used the money to purchase the potter's field, fulfilling prophecy. Matthew 27:3-10
- Judas purchased the Field of Blood and fell headlong and "burst open..." Acts 1:18-20
- Judas was replaced by Matthias who was added to the eleven apostles. Acts 1:26

Encounters with Jesus

- Selected as one of Christ's twelve disciples. Matthew 10:4; Luke 6:15
- Jesus referred to Judas as the devil. John 6:70-71
- Criticized Mary for anointing Jesus with expensive perfume. John 12:4-8
- Conversed with Jesus during the Last Supper. Matthew 26:23-25; John 13:27-28
- The devil entered his heart at the Last Supper. John 13:2
- Betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Matthew 26:14-16; 26:47-51

Many times we sit in church and hear the messages that we need to hear. We feel the conviction from the Holy Spirit and feel the sense that we need to change something in our lives. The same was true for Judas. Judas had every opportunity to turn from his sin. Below are some of the messages taught by Jesus that Judas sat under and should have listened to. He never applied the lessons. He just kept up his deceit. (Adapted from "Twelve Ordinary Men, John MacArthur, p.186)

- The parable of the unjust steward (Luke 16:1-13)
- The message of the wedding garment (Matthew 22:11-14)
- Jesus' preaching against the love of money (Matthew 6:19-34)
- Jesus' preaching against greed (Luke 13:13-21)
- Jesus' preaching against pride (Matthew 21:1-12)
- Jesus told the disciples, "One of you is a devil" (John 6:70)
- He cautioned about the woe that would come to the person who betrayed Him (Matthew 26:24)

What are some of the messages you have heard that need to impact the deep places of your heart?

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. In spite of the rare opportunity Judas had to learn from or receive help from the Lord, Judas did not take advantage of these one-on-one settings. What opportunities for spiritual growth are available to us that we ignore?
2. Jesus' unconditional love never wavered toward Judas. He called him a friend until the very end. If you truly believed that there is nothing you could ever do that would cause you to earn (or lose) God's favor, what impact would it have on the way you respond to what His Word requires?
3. Judas is proof of the fact that hypocrisy is lethal. If not confessed and turned from, it separates a person increasingly from the truth. Although it is easy to cover up, it eventually comes to light. Because of such soul-damaging consequences, what do we do to root out the initial growth of hypocrisy?

Next Steps:

1. **Join in 'Following Jesus', Calvary's ongoing discipleship ministry, to journey through the foundational elements of how to live and love like Jesus.** If you're a new follower of Jesus, or want to become more grounded in the basics of Christianity, this is perfect for you! Learn more at calvarylife.org/discipleship
2. **Seek counseling or prayer support to find a safe place to work through the hidden places of your heart.** Discover more about receiving counseling or prayer through Calvary Care Ministries by contacting 714.550.2334 or care@calvarylife.org or visit calvarylife.org/care