

# “The Traitor”

Dr. Richard S. Koole  
Chapel Pointe  
March 21, 2010

---

## I. Introduction

### A. The most unusual monument (#3361)

1. On the site of the Battle of Saratoga
  - a. Decisive battle of the American Revolution
2. A strange monument to a hero
  - a. A monument to a man's leg
  - b. To the brilliant leader who won the battle

#### 4. The inscription reads

*“In memory of the most brilliant soldier of the Continental Army, who was desperately wounded on this spot... 7<sup>th</sup> October, 1777, winning for his countrymen the decisive battle of the American Revolution, and for himself the rank of major general”*

5. Yet no name is mentioned....only the leg
  - a. Who was this man?
6. Benedict Arnold
  - a. Was at one time a hero in the Continental Army
  - b. Because Arnold was instrumental in winning the crucial battle of Saratoga where his left leg was wounded, General Depeyster had the monument erected at his own expense.
  - c. The rest of the betrayer's body and his face were not to be commemorated!
  - d. The monument nowhere carries the name of Benedict Arnold.
6. We know him as a traitor....and he was

- a. He tried to betray West Point and then fled to England
- 7. He had so much wasted potential
  - a. What Benedict Arnold could have become
- 8. Where did he go wrong?

## **B. Today...the most notorious of all traitors**

- 1. Judas Iscariot
- 2. One of the twelve Apostles
- 3. Betrayed Jesus with a kiss.... “the Judas Kiss”

## **C. Who was this man?**

- 1. How could he fall so far?

## **II. Review**

### **A. Calling of the Twelve....Luke 6:12-16**

*(12) One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. (13) When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: (14) Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, (15) Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, (16) Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.*

## **III. Background**

### **Name: Judas Iscariot**

- 1. Judas is a form of Judah
  - a. Means “Jehovah leads”
  - b. His parents must have had great hope for him
- 2. Iscariot

- a. “Ish” means “man of”
- b. Kerioth
  - 1. Small town in the south of Judea
  - 2. Only one of the 12 not from the Galilee
- 3. Also called
  - a. Judas the Betrayer
  - b. Judas, one of the twelve

**Family: Son of Simon Iscariot**

**Occupation:**

- 1. Was the treasurer of the group
- 2. May have been a member of the Zealots

**Personality: A Traitor**

- 1. Greedy (Matt. 26:14-16)
- 2. Deceitful (Matt. 26:25)
- 3. Treacherous (Matthew 26:47-50)
- 4. The great pretender

**Summary: (What you should know about him)**

- 1. Betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver (Matt. 27:3-10)
- 2. Committed suicide on the field of Blood (Acts 1:18-20)
- 3. Replaced by Matthias (Acts 1:26)
- 4. Jesus knew from the beginning about his betrayal

John 6:64

*“Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him.*

5. Jesus called him the devil

John 6:70-71

*(70) Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!" (71) (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)*

6. The devil entered his heart at the last supper

Luke 22:3

*"Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve."*

7. Judas never truly believed...just pretending

John 17:12

*"While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled."*

8. Old Testament prophesied regarding the betrayal

Zechariah 11:12-13

*(12) So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. (13) And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—the handsome price at which they priced me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord to the potter.*

## **Death: Suicide**

1. Committed suicide after betraying Jesus (Acts 1:18-19)

## **IV. The story leading up to Easter**

### **A. The Disillusion**

1. The Saturday before "Palm Sunday" (this coming Saturday)
  - a. In Bethany
  - b. Home of Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha

## 2. Mary's gift of worship

**John 12**

*(1) Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. (2) Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. (3) Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.*

## 3. Judas' complaint

*(4) But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, (5) "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." (6) He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.*

## 4. What this reveals about Judas:

- a. He was greedy
  - 1. Criticized poor Mary while stealing himself
- b. He was a hypocrite
  - 1. Criticized poor Mary while stealing himself
- c. He was an embezzler
- d. He was clever

## 5. They didn't suspect Judas

- a. Embezzler from Rockford Fifth-Third Bank
  - 1. A million dollars over five years
  - 2. Amazing she got away with it for so long
- b. Embezzlers I've known
  - 1. Trusted
  - 2. Give gifts
  - 3. Likeable people

- 4. Intend to repay it...but never do
- 6. Jesus' response in verse 7 (John 12:7)
  - a. Jesus staring into the eyes of Judas as He spoke

***“Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial.”***

- b. Leave her alone...at least she understands
- 7. The heart of Judas was exposed!
  - a. He was in this for power and money
- 8. Judas then realized he'd never get rich following Jesus
  - a. Three years wasted!
  - b. He disillusionment exploded
- 9. Judas went to “Plan B”
  - a. Sought to get as much as he could
  - b. He knew some people who would pay
  - c. He had low friends in high places

## **B. The Deal**

- 1. Move forward to **Wednesday** evening
  - a. One day before Passover
- 2. The palace of the High Priest
  - a. Jewish leaders were worried
    - 1. Jesus was rocking their boat
  - b. They had seen:
    - 1. The triumphal entry
      - a. Crowd's chanting “Hosanna Son of David”

- b. “Save us Messiah”
  - 2. The cleansing of the Temple
- c. They determined to get Jesus after Passover
  - 1. Feared crowds during Passover
  - 2. Planned to bring false charges against Jesus
  - 3. Needed a witness
- d. Enter Judas Iscariot—“One of the Twelve”

Matthew 26:14-16

*(14) Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests (15) and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I hand Jesus over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty silver coins. (16) From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.*

- 3. The deal is made
  - 1. “I can deliver Jesus”
    - a. I know where He goes to pray alone
  - 2. How much?
    - a. Counted out 30 pieces of silver.....v.15
      - 1. Not much
      - 2. From \$20 to \$220
    - b. What a horrible bargain
      - 1. Sold his soul for \$200
  - 3. Planned to wait until after Passover
    - a. But their plans changed the next evening

## **C. The Dinner**

1. Passover Dinner... **Thursday** night

2. Matthew 26:20-25

*(20) When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. (21) And while they were eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me." (22) They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely not I, Lord?" (23) Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. (24) The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born." (25) Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, surely not I, Rabbi?" Jesus answered, "Yes, it is you."*

3. John gives additional details (John 13:21-30)

*(21) After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me." (22) His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. (23) One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. (24) Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means." (25) Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" (26) Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. (27) As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. "What you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus told him, (28) but no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. (29) Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the Feast, or to give something to the poor. (30) As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.*

4. Judas left the Passover supper

- a. Knew that Jesus knew
- b. Had to act fast
- c. Went to meet with Chief Priests
  1. "Tonight!"
  2. "Alone in the Garden"

5. The "Judas Kiss"

- a. Matthew 26: 47-50

*(47) While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. (48) Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." (49) Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi! And kissed him. (50) Jesus*

*replied, "Friend, do what you came for." Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him."*

## **F. The Death**

### 1. Matthew 27:3-10

*(3) When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. (4) "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility." (5) So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. (6) The chief priests picked up the coins and said, "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money." (7) So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. (8) That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. (9) Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "They took the thirty silver coins, the price set on him by the people of Israel, (10) and they used them to buy the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."*

### 2. Acts 1:18-19

*(18) With the reward he got for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. (19) Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.*

## **V. What we can learn from Judas**

### **1. Judas wasted opportunities**

- a. Judas was "one of the twelve"
- b. He had seen:
  1. The dead raised
  2. Jesus walk on water
  3. Deaf hear and blind see
  4. Demons routed
- c. Judas heard:
  1. Sermon on the Mount
  2. Teaching on the coming kingdom

3. The private conversations with Jesus

d. Wasted opportunity

***It's possible to be near Christ and associate with him closely and yet become utterly hardened in sin.***

e. Your opportunities

1. You've been blessed
2. You've heard the words of Jesus...through me
3. Raised in a Christian home
  - a. Wonderful opportunities
  - b. Learned the truth as a child
  - c. Yet many turn and walk away
4. Never take a blessing for granted
  - a. The blessing of godly parents
  - b. The blessing on our church
  - c. The blessing of children
  - d. The blessing of opportunities
5. Can cause you to grow hard

***2. Judas was greedy***

- a. Judas was in it for the money
  1. Greed addresses what you "want" not what you "have"
  2. He was dishonest
  3. He was an embezzler
- b. Do you struggle with greed?

1. You don't need to be rich to be greedy
  - a. Greed is what you want...not what you have
2. God loves a cheerful giver
3. God blesses a sacrificial giver
4. Jon Goad's comments
  - a. "It ain't about the money"
  - b. "God's got plenty of it"
5. Are you obsessed with the quest for more?
  - a. Not content with your house, car...
  - b. Always comparing yourself to someone else
6. We'll one day give an accounting to God
  - a. The books will be opened
  - b. We're called "stewards" or "trustees"
  - c. It all belongs to God
  - d. "What did you do with it?"

### ***3. Judas was only pretending***

- a. The definition of a hypocrite
  1. Pretending to be something you're not
- b. Judas was pretending to be a true believer in Christ
  1. He got away with it for a while
  2. Judas never gave his heart and soul to Jesus
    - a. Hanging out with other believers is not enough
- c. Pretenders in the church

1. Here every Sunday
2. A member in good standing
3. A pastor or elder

***It's possible to be deeply involved in a church that teaches Christ and yet become utterly hardened in sin.***

- d. Are you just pretending to be a believer?
  1. Pretending won't save your soul
  2. Judas fooled all of them...except Jesus
- e. Are you just pretending your life is fine?
  1. That secret sin....God sees