



MESSAGE:

PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE, BUT GOD WILL BE GOD

PASSAGE: MATTHEW 27: 3-5, 14-16, 47-50 ESV

3 Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, 4 and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. 5 But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

14 Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. 16 And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

47 While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. 48 Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.” 49 And he came up to Jesus at once and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” And he kissed him. 50 Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you

came to do.” Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him.

MESSAGE GOAL:

The goal of this sermon is to convey a message of hope, resilience, and trust in God's plan despite betrayal, evil plots, and challenges. This sermon takes the biblical story of Judas betraying Jesus to illustrate the idea that God can turn negative circumstances into a greater purpose, emphasizing the congregation to see beyond betrayal and hurt and pain, acknowledging that God can use even the darkest moments for good and that ultimate victory is found in God's plan.

INTRODUCTION

According to Matthew 10:1-2, Judas Iscariot was one of the original twelve disciples that was called by Jesus Christ and given authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every dis-ease and sickness. Judas was one of the original twelve apostles that went out and preached the Lord's message that the



kingdom of God is near. Judas lived with Jesus and followed Jesus for 3 years. He witnessed Jesus' ministry, His teaching, and His miracles. Furthermore, Judas Iscariot held a respected and trusted position in the group of twelve and the Lord Jesus Christ; he was the "keeper of the money" as John 12:6 put it.

As recorded in Matthew 26: 3-4 we are informed that the religious leaders assembled together and had a meeting with one item on the agenda, and that was to secretly arrest and kill Jesus. You see, they had to do this in secret because Jesus was so popular among the people that to arrest him in public would have caused a commotion. The religious leaders did not know where Jesus would gather when he was not fulfilling his public ministry, which means that if the religious leaders were to secretly arrest and kill Jesus, they needed someone on the inside of his circle to reveal his location and sell him out.

This means that if Jesus was to be handed over to the religious leaders to be arrested and killed, it would only be possible if one of his disciples sold him out.

And it turns out that Jesus was in fact betrayed, and it was an inside job. It was one of his disciples. It was one of the 12 who

lived with him and followed him for 3 years. It was one of the 12 who he gave authority and power to preach, cast out evil spirits, and heal. It was one of the 12 who witnessed all of his ministry, teachings, and miracles. It was Judas, one of the twelve disciples, who betrayed Jesus

SERMON

1. *PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE, BUT GOD WILL BE GOD*

According to Matthew 10:1-2, Judas Iscariot was one of the original twelve disciples that was called by Jesus Christ and given authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every dis-ease and sickness. Judas was one of the original twelve apostles that went out and preached the Lord's message that the kingdom of God is near. Judas lived with Jesus and followed Jesus for 3 years. He witnessed Jesus' ministry, His teaching, and His miracles. Furthermore, Judas Iscariot held a respected and trusted position in the group of twelve and the Lord Jesus Christ; he was the "keeper of the money" as John 12:6 put it.

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And it turns out that Jesus was in fact betrayed, and it was an inside job. It was one of his disciples. It was one of the 12 who lived with him and followed him for 3 years. It was one of the 12 who he gave authority and power to preach, cast out evil spirits, and heal. It was one of the 12 who witnessed all of his ministry, teachings, and miracles. It was Judas, one of the twelve disciples, who betrayed Jesus.

The Bible says in Matthew 26:14 that Judas went to the chief priests and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I hand Jesus over to you?” And they offered him 30 silver

coins, and when they made that offer, Judas agreed and waited for the right opportunity to sell Jesus out.

Now just to put things into perspective, those 30 silver coins they gave for Jesus were worth next to nothing, showing just how little the religious leaders valued Jesus! However, it also shows us how little his disciple valued him! It is rather odd that someone who walked with God for 3 years, witnessed His ministry, witnessed His teachings, and witnessed His miracles, agreed to sell him out for 30 silver coins, which is next to nothing.

The religious leaders valued Jesus at 30 silver coins, which is next to nothing. Judas valued Jesus at 30 silver coins, which is next to nothing. And I will have you to know there is still a temptation today to be religious, to come to church, to be a witness, to be a preacher, to be a worship leader, to be a ministry leader in the name of Jesus, yet still value Jesus next to nothing.

Nevertheless, before I move on let me give you a beautiful example of someone who actually valued Jesus!

In Matthew 26: 6-13, there was a woman who came to Jesus with her alabaster box of very precious ointment, and she poured it on His head! According to Mark 14:5, this ointment was worth more than a year's



wages. It is not to say that Jesus is only worth a year's salary, but unlike the 30 silver coins that was next to nothing, this costly ointment was the most valuable thing that she had, and the reality is we don't have the resources to truly offer unto Jesus His worth, but if Jesus is truly worthy to us, then the best thing we can do is offer him the most valuable thing that we have! "Therefore, my brothers and sister, by the mercies of God, I beseech you therefore, to present your body as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable worship (Romans 12:1)!" If Jesus is truly worth something to you, then you won't offer him next to nothing, you won't offer him half-hearted commitment, you won't offer him some, but you will give him your all!

Beloved, it is not enough to just say He is worthy of all the honor, all the glory, and all the praise, but if He is truly worthy of all the honor, all the glory, and all the praise, don't just declare it with your lips, but also declare it with your life! Declare it with how you represent Him! Declare it with how you walk! Declare it with how you talk! Declare it with your life!

Now let's return to this specific narrative:

Judas accepted the offer to sell Jesus out for 30 silver coins, and from that moment, the bible says in Matthew 26:16 that he was

waiting for the right opportunity to betray him. That opportunity came when Jesus went to a place called Gethsemane to pray. And after praying for the third time, Jesus said in verse 45 something that I found strange initially: He says, "look, the time has come. The Son is betrayed into the hands of sinners." I initially found this strange because this statement by Jesus implies that He already knew about the plot of one of his own disciples betraying him. Even at the Last Supper, he mentioned that one of his disciples would betray him(Matthew 26:21), which once again reinforces the idea that Jesus knew that one of his disciples would betray him. Hence, this collaboration between the religious leaders and one of his disciples was not hidden from Jesus, but he knew the entire time! And now I must ask the question, Lord, why would you choose somebody that you knew was going to eventually betray you? Lord, why would you call somebody to be your disciple if you knew that disciple was eventually going to betray you? Here's the answer: Because although betrayal, it was part of God's plan all along. You see, if the religious leaders never had a meeting to plot on Jesus' downfall, they never would have offered 30 silver coins to betray Jesus, and if they never would have offered 30 silver coins to betray Jesus, then Judas would not have betrayed Jesus, and if Judas would not have betrayed



Jesus, then the religious leaders never would have found Jesus in private to arrest him, and if the religious leaders never found Jesus in private to arrest him, then Jesus would not have been handed over to be crucified, and if he would not have been handed over to be crucified, he would not have died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, and if he would not have died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, there would be no victory of Christ, or victory in Christ!

Get this: The religious leaders thought that arresting Jesus was part of their plan, but it was actually part of God's plan. Judas thought that betraying Jesus was part of his plan, but it was actually part of God's plan! In ways that we may never fully understand, but have evidence that it is true, the evil plot of religious leaders and the betrayal of Jesus by Judas fell right into the plans of God to bring about the victory of Jesus the Christ and salvation of the world!

And since it was part of God's plan and fell right into God's plans, then what the religious leaders meant for evil, God meant it for good! Since it was part of God's plan, what Judas meant for evil, God meant for good!

Only God can take something as treacherous as betrayal and use it as paint for the

beautiful picture he is painting of his plans, which includes your life! You see, God took the evil plots of the religious leaders, and the betrayal of Judas to lead to the arrest, and the arrest led to calvary, and calvary led to resurrection, and the resurrection led to victory! What the devil meant for evil, is going to work out for the good! And that's why you can't return evil for evil, because when you return evil for evil, then your retaliation is your portion! But when you remain steadfast and not return evil for evil when the enemy tries to break you down, when your name comes up in circles you thought were safe, when people hate you and plot on your downfall, then God will take care of your enemies, and will reward you for remaining steadfast!

People are going to be people, which means that some of people's actions are subject to the error and flaws that are part of their sinful nature. Now that does not excuse or justify the betrayal, it does not excuse or justify the backstabbing, it does not excuse or justify the wrongdoing, it does not excuse or justify the evil plot, it does not excuse or justify the actions, but we are not to be surprised because people are people! However, there is one that has no error and has no flaws, and I am here to report that yes, people are going to be people, but hallelujah, God is going to be God and in the



words of Solomon, “many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s plans that will prevail!” So I say to you this morning, do not lose hope or sink into despair when people operate in their flesh, because although people will be people, “we know that all things work together for good to those who love the Lord, to those who are called according to his purpose!

Let me encourage you that:

God is able to take the betrayal,

God is able to take the hurt,

God is able to take the pain,

God is able to take the lies that people have spread about you,

God is able to take the abuse and neglect,

God is able to take the evil that has been done against you,

And use it for the good!

Don’t glorify the pain and hurt and betrayal so much that you discount God’s ability to use it for good!

If you don’t believe me, look at Jesus!

God took:

the rejection of his own people,

the plan of the powers and principalities,

the plot of the religious leaders,

the betrayal of his disciples,

the beatings of the roman police,

the lynching of the roman government,

to bring about the greatest victory of all time, which includes a raised Jesus, and salvation for you and I!

Let me tell you why the evil plans, plots, and actions of people will not ultimately prevail; they will not prevail because although People will be people, God will always be God!

“Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)!”

QUOTES BY STEPHEN HERROD

“If Jesus is truly worth something to you, then you won’t offer him next to nothing, but you will give Him your all!”

“It is not enough to just say He is worthy of all the honor, all the glory, and all the praise, but if He is truly worthy of all the honor, all the glory, and all the praise, don’t just declare it with your lips, but also declare it with your life.”

“Only God can take something as treacherous as betrayal, and use it as paint for the beautiful picture he is painting of his plans, which includes your life!”



“People are going to be people, which means that some of people’s actions are subject to the error and flaws that is part of their design, but there is one that has no error and has no flaws and I am here to report that people are going to be people, but hallelujah God is going to be God and in the words of Solomon, many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s plans that will prevail!”

“Don’t glorify the pain and hurt and betrayal so much that you discount God’s ability to use it for good!”