

# Sunday, March 18, 2018 – Fifth Sunday of Lent

## Sermon: Judas – The Traitor

Read Luke 22:1-6



Jesus chose twelve people to be His apostles. They spent time with Him apart from the rest of the crowds. They knew Him best. Judas was one of the twelve and He betrayed Jesus. Judas went to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus was praying to betray Him.



Jesus as he denied Jesus.

Judas knew Jesus would be praying in the Garden. It may be that Jesus used the Garden for prayer regularly. Judas knew Jesus would be there and went up to Jesus and kissed Him which was the sign Judas had given. A kiss was how a disciple would greet their master. It was an intimate form of greeting. Judas used this as the way to identify Jesus. He acted like he was faithful to



John says that Judas did not care about the poor, but that he would steal from the money.

One of the possible reasons why Judas betrayed Jesus was that he wanted the money. Judas had been trusted by the disciples. He was the keeper of the disciple's money. There was a time, shortly before Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, when a woman anointed Jesus with expensive oil. Judas claimed that it was a waste of money that could have been given to the poor.



Since we see his interest in money we can figure that when the Jewish leaders offered 30 pieces of silver to betray Jesus, he was willing to do it. One problem in thinking about Judas is how do we relate to him. For Judas it seems money was more important than Jesus. What is more important to us than Jesus?



Judas may have been disappointed in Jesus. He started following Jesus because he believed Jesus was the Messiah. What Judas expected from the Messiah was not what Jesus came to do. Jesus did not come to establish a political kingdom, but a spiritual kingdom. Judas may have been looking for the political kingdom which would have made him powerful. When Jesus did not begin His kingdom, Judas betrayed Him. It may have been that Judas wanted to force Jesus' hand by making Jesus establish His kingdom. If Jesus were arrested He may have thought Jesus would finally call people to fight Rome and establish a free nation with Jesus as the leader. There are times we are disappointed in life and we blame God. God can do anything, but most of the time He allows the world to go on. We live in a sinful world which means we do not follow Christ. We can blame God for bad things that happen. The truth is they happen because we live in a fallen world.