



Sermon
Rev. Lang Yang

“Broken Trust”

Fifth Sunday in Lent
St. Michael’s Lutheran Church, Richville, MI
4-6-14

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Matthew 26:23 *“Jesus replied, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me.”* This is the Word of God. (Cross Reference – Mark 12:38-39, Luke 20:45-46)

Dear brother and sister in Christ Jesus

Illustration “name” (Show picture of what’s in a name)

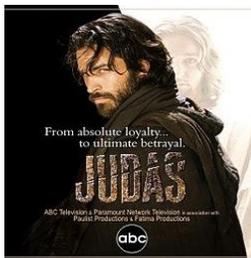


It’s always been a popular idea to give your child a biblical name. Some of the most popular Biblical name are: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, Andrew, James, Timothy, and Paul. All of these names are familiar but how many Judas do you know? How many social situations have you been in where that name comes up? “Sally, I’d like you to meet John, Mark, and Judas.” You probably think, OH! Wow! No one names their child Judas these days, because that name is associated with the one who betray Jesus in all of history, Judas Iscariot. (Show betraying Jesus with a kiss)



I found it odd that the whole world just condemned Judas when he kiss Jesus on the cheek to mark him as the one that need to be arrested. But when you look at the account, Judas did not stand to accuse, condemn, mock, spit or sentence Jesus to die. He didn’t put a whip to his back or a nail through his hands. And yet, he is often thought as the essence of evil in this story.

- I. In today message, *“Jesus replied, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me.”*(Matthew 26:23) (Show Judas the betrayal)



He’s been portrayed a variety of ways, from heinous villain to unfortunate victim. The gospels don’t tell us about how or when he was called to follow Jesus, so we can only assume it was with the same enthusiasm and vigor as the others. I doubt Judas would have begun following Jesus with the plan to betray him. He saw Jesus, he believed, and he followed, like the other disciples.

(Show Judas the money bag holding Apostle)



We know that he was chosen to serve as the treasurer for the disciples, so he must have displayed some positive characteristics. This office is not usually given to someone thought of as greedy and irresponsible. It was a respected position and probably indicates the degree of esteem in which he was held. So some of you will have a burning questions is, “Why did Judas do it?” In

their gospels, Luke and John both say that Satan entered Judas and caused him to do what he did. Some might say that it was all a part of God’s plan and that Judas didn’t have a choice. It’s not that God or Satan controlled Judas like a marionette on a string. God created us, but also give us the ability to make a choice. If we say the devil made Judas did it than anything that we did wrong we can blame the same thing by saying, “The devil made me do it? If Judas didn’t have any choice in what he did, why would he be so grieved about it that he would take his own life? So why did Judas chose to betray Jesus? Why did the broken trust occurs between Jesus and Judas? (Show Judas returning the money)

II. There are several theories that exist. The first one says that Judas was greedy



and betrayed Jesus for money. But that doesn’t fit what we know. The amount of money he was given was modest, about the price you would pay for an injured slave that was sold on the market, and later he returns the money. Besides, as the treasurer, he could have dipped his hand into the cookie jar anytime he wanted. There’s something more at work here besides greed. (Show Judas Iscariot the betrayer)



Second theory suggested that Judas was disappointed that Jesus wasn’t the military hero the Jews were expected. Judas’ in Hebrew meaning “the praise one” and Iscariot mean “a man of Kerioth”. But The apostle, Judas Iscariot, betrayed Jesus Christ for thirty pieces of silver. As a result, the name Judas is used as a synonym for 'traitor' and is not often used as a first name. Judas may have been looking for Jesus to be the kind of savior who could lead this rebellion

Against the Roman Empire. When Judas realized Jesus wasn’t that kind of leader, he may have betrayed him out of anger or revenge. (Show Judas talking to Jesus)



Third theory suggested that if Judas was not greedy or angry, but instead was actually trying to help Jesus in his mission. He knew from the Old Testament what the Messiah was supposed to do – to vanquish Rome and establish God’s kingdom on earth – and he felt Jesus just

wasn't moving fast enough. Judas had become disillusioned because Jesus was talking about dying rather than setting up his kingdom. Judas may have thought, "If I can just nudge him a little; if I can just force his hand, then he won't have any choice but to act." If this is the case than Judas did it because Jesus was not the Savior Judas wanted him to be.

- III. Botherer and sisters in Christ Jesus, it is easy for us to feel contempt for Judas. After all, he's Judas, the betrayer. We will say, I never do that, and I will never broke the trust of my master? How many of you broke the trust of your love one? Your husband, your wives, your children, your parents and your employer? Because of this sinful world, most human will be put into the test and tempted to do wrong. If you were to put into the right or wrong circumstances, facing the right amount of pressure, you can be capable of betrayaing. (Show I'm Sorry)

I'm Sorry

The greatest problem in the world and in our lives is sin, and God's answered is the cross. We are constantly reminded that we live in a broken world. Like Judas, we'll never always make the right

choices. That's not an excuse for our sins, but it is reality. What we have to be careful of is how we follow up these moments. The Apostle Matthew tells us that, after his betrayal, Judas was overcome with remorse. That's a good starting point, but it's not the same as repentance. It's one thing to feel badly for what we've done; it's quite another to actively seek forgiveness and reconciliation. Remorse means feelings of regret; repentance is a change of heart. Remorse is saying under your breath, "I shouldn't have done that." Repentance is looking in the eyes of the one you've wronged and saying, "I'm sorry, I was wrong, would you forgive me?" (Show Judas hanging himself)



Judas never takes that step. After his betrayal, he doesn't return to the community of the disciples, where forgiveness would be found. Instead, he suffers alone, increasing in despair, unwilling to believe he could be forgiven, until his remorse drives him to take his own life by hanging himself. We run the same risk. If we aren't willing to humble ourselves and acknowledge our need for

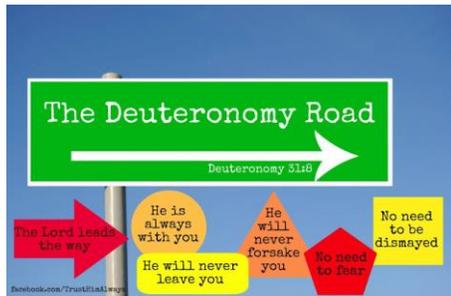
forgiveness, that we can be freed is through Christ. (Show God's fault)



Like Judas, we all are tempted to make Jesus into the Christ we want him to be. We want him to give us what we want and heal us when we want and to leave us alone when we want to be left alone to think and do things we don't want him to know about. And when that doesn't happen, when Christ doesn't fit our mold, we get disillusioned, and we

make ourselves vulnerable to the forces of evil around us. We blame God, “It’s God Fault, It’s not my fault, It’s his fault.” So brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, Keeping your faith and trust Jesus as Lord and Savior is not that we can change to be better for him, but we who must be changed by Him and through Him. If only Judas had been open to receiving forgiveness, he would have not only have lived long enough to discover the empty tomb, he would have discovered the joy of living as a follower of the risen Christ. Even the world around us had betray us, abandon us we will never be afraid because of our faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we will not have the broken trust from our God.

(Show Deuteronomy 31:8)



He said, “The LORD himself goes before **you** and will be with **you**; he will **never leave you** nor forsake **you**. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

(Deuteronomy 31:8) His promises to us that “...*whoever believe in him shall not perish but have eternal life*” (John 3:16)

Thankfully, we still have that chance, the

chance to open our hearts, the chance to ask for forgiveness, the chance to be reconcile to the Father through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. When Christ went to the cross for you He had justify you and made you blameless and pure in God’s eyes. So there is no more broken trust but you now have life in Him. Amen.

Now may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen