

Introduction

Judas is depicted very differently by each of the four synoptic Gospel writers. Today we will seek to understand Jesus from Mark's perspective. The most striking feature about the way in which Mark characterizes Judas is his resemblance to the other apostles. Judas is called by Jesus, he is sent out by Jesus, he enjoys fellowship with Jesus and he struggles with unbelief just like all the other apostles. In the list of apostles given in the third Chapter of Mark's Gospel, Judas is placed last and differentiated from the others as "*Judas Iscariot, who handed Jesus over.*" Judas's position at the end of the listed disciples is ambiguous, especially given Jesus insistence in Mark that "the last will be first."

...Pause...

Mark 14:3-11 ESV

And while *Jesus* was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. There were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment wasted like that? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they scolded her. But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray Jesus.

Andy to give 1st Person monologue of Judas

- The value of the ointment (worth a year's wages)
- We could feed over 5000 people with that kind of money
- He is a remarkable person, but I think it has gone to his head
- And what's this talk of burial?
- He is supposed to be the anointed one, the Messiah, sent to redeem us from these Roman scum!
- I have to find a way to help him take responsibility, he must follow his calling to be King.

Mark 14:17-21 ESV

And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?" He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

Andy to give 1st Person monologue of Judas

- It's worse than I thought, he really thinks he is going to die.
- Jehovah would not let that happen to the messiah.
- I have had enough of his attempts to keep his identity secret!

- It's time he took responsibility, and if he won't then I will speed up the process.
- I must hand him over to the Chief Priests, if he is the messiah, he will win them over and lead us all to victory.
- He is still my friend, he has taught me so much, I will hand him over with a kiss... to reassure him that I still believe he can do it.

Mark 14:41-50 ESV

And Jesus came to his disciples a third time in the garden of Gethsemane, and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand." And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard." And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" And he kissed him. And they laid hands on him and seized him. But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled." And they all left him and fled.

Andy to give 1st Person monologue of Judas

- What have I done? But it's all his fault!
- What did he mean about the scriptures being fulfilled?
- He was so weak and pathetic, at the time when he should have been strong and led his people to freedom and victory!
- But he surrendered with such grace... it's almost as if God was with him...
- NO! he's dead now, and all our hope with him!
- He was a fraud, and I fell for it, placed all my hope in him!
- What is there for me now... there is nothing to live for, nothing.
- JESUS YOU COWARD!!

After I bang the door, read solemnly what is written below:

It is possible to be so convinced that we are right, that we become unable to discern the truth from lies. Mark's depiction of Judas compels us to examine the depths of our own self-deceit...

Move back to your place as soon as you complete the reading