Schemer? Dreamer? Patriot? Demon? Traitor? Who was Judas?

His is a name that will live in infamy. It’s even in the dictionary. Look up this name and you would find this, “betrayer or traitor.” Etymologically, his name means “praise or thanksgiving.” I am speaking of one Judas Iscariot.

There may be no other single person who has given rise so much of our vocabulary. A traitor is called a Judas. We use the phrase “kiss of death.” Thirty pieces of silver has come to reflect the price for a betrayal. We even talk about “a potter’s field” and field of blood.

He is counted together with Sammy the Bull, Brutus, John Wilkes Boothe and others. He is infamous. We “know” him, but not really. Do you know where was he from? Who was His family? What was his motivation?

This morning, we will see what we can learn about Judas Iscariot. More importantly, we will see what we can learn FROM him.

Open with me again to Mark chapter 14.

1. **PLOT (1-2)**

We looked last we at how the Jewish leaders were conspiring to murder Jesus.

They were “*looking for a cunning way to arrest and kill*” Jesus (1). “*A cunning way*” comes from a word for decoy. It means to use trickery, to employ bait or deceit. They planned to use wiles, craft, subtlety—cunning.

Murder and trickery — the leadership skills of religious folks, right??

2. **PERFUME (3-9)**

Bethany - the home of Simon the Leper … Look at Matt 26 and John 12.

WOW! At the home of Simon, Lazarus was there. Martha was serving (good ole Marth) Mary is worshipping.

Scholars suggest that these folks may be family. Isn’t it ODD that Mary, Martha and Lazarus all live together in Bethany? What if Si- mon were their FATHER? Known as Simon the Leper because he had been freed from the curse of leprosy by Jesus. Naturally his kids would have been affected, both by the leprosy AND the healing.

We put all three of these gospel renditions together to get the whole picture.

What Mary sees as WORSHIP, Judas characterizes as WASTE.

Mary loves Jesus. Judas LEAVES Jesus.

3. **PROMISE (10-11)**

Judas Iscariot, “Judas, a man of Kerioth.” Kerioth is Judas’ home-town.

Kerioth is in Judah. He is only disciple said NOT to be from Galilee.

He goes to the chief-priests to “*betray*” Jesus to them. He will “give over” Jesus to them. They are glad and promise to give him money.

They give him 30 pieces of silver. This is the value of a common slave (See Ex 21.32).

4. **PREPARATION (12—16)**

Judas prepares to betray Jesus

“*So He started looking for a good opportunity to betray Him*”

Compare vv 11 and 1 - they were seeking. They were sneaking.

Disciples are preparing for Passover

Jesus is preparing to die for the sins of the world.

5. **PREDICTION (17—21)**

One of YOU will betray Me.

Woe to the betrayer.

Better is He had never been born

“One of you is a ‘devil’” - Jn 6.70

6. **PASSOVER (22—26)**

*This is MY blood*

*of the COVENANT*

*which is poured out for many*

7. **PETER (27—31)**

“*All of you will fall away*”

Peter says, “Not me.”

Jesus says, “*You will DENY Me three times*”

Peter says, “*I will DIE with You*.:

“*They* ***ALL*** *said the same thing*”

8. **PRAYER (32—42)**

In the Garden

 9. **PERVERSITY (43—46)**

“*The one I KISS*” (44)

He calls Jesus “*Rabbi*” - Only strangers and enemies call Jesus “Rabbi.”

John 13.27— satan entered him (Judas).

**10. POINTS**

1. People will do things we just cannot understand.

2. Actions have consequences that cannot be undone.

3.  There is no situation so bad that God cannot work it for good.

Judas was in it for himself. He betrayed His friend. We know him for what he did. What He did grew out of what he was. What are WE?