

**Welcome to the  
Common Ground Café!**



**Sunday, May 21, 2017**

**“What God Can Do with Ordinary You”**

**Week 6: Judas**

**A Study of Matthew 10:1-4**

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In ranching, what is a “Judas goat”? (Use a mobile device to find out if you need to.)

We conclude our study of the 12 Apostles today with a look at Judas. Read about Judas’ betrayal of Jesus in Matthew 26:14-16 and 47-49. Then answer the following questions:

- ❖ Most translations begin verse 14 with the word “Then.” What happened right before Judas decided to betray Jesus? (See verses 6-13.)
- ❖ Do you think the incident in verses 6-13 is what finally convinced Judas to give up on Jesus? Why or why not?
- ❖ What was the price of a slave’s death in Exodus 21:32? What does this say about how Judas’ view of Jesus had sunk?
- ❖ Why did the religious leaders need help to identify Jesus?
- ❖ Judas told the religious leaders that he would identify Jesus by a kiss. How does a kiss make the betrayal so much worse?

Read Psalm 55:12-14 and answer the following questions:

- ❖ Do you think this may have been how Jesus felt?
- ❖ Why is mistreatment by a friend more painful than mistreatment by an enemy?
- ❖ How can it help us endure betrayal knowing that God in Christ experienced it, too?

The story of Judas provides both warning and hope. Let’s look at the warning and then at the hope.

## **Point One: Don't Neglect God's Gracious Opportunities**

God was gracious to Judas *before, during, and even after* his betrayal.

### ***Before his decision to betray Jesus***

Name some of the miracles of Jesus you would have most wanted to witness.

Names some of the teachings of Jesus you would have most liked to hear from him directly.

Did Judas see these miracles and hear this teaching?

### ***During his decision to betray Jesus***

Read Matthew 26:20-25. Jesus responded to Judas' lie in a way that told Judas, "I know what you're planning," but it was also vague enough that it didn't expose Judas' plans to the other disciples. How might this have been a gracious way for Jesus to warn Judas to stop his plans?

Read John 13:30. When the author wrote, "And it was night," was he just telling his readers the time, or was he also saying something about Judas by that point?

## After his decision to betray Jesus

Simon Peter was restored after abandoning his loyalty to Jesus. So we can assume Judas could have been restored from failure, too. According to Matthew 26:75 and Matthew 27:5, how did Judas and Peter handle their remorse?

According to 2 Corinthians 7:10, there are two kinds of sorrows. What's the difference between these two sorrows? Why does one lead to life and one lead to death? How are Peter and Judas examples of each of these?

Some people have this view of God as sitting in the grandstands simply observing how we run the race of life. But the Bible reveals that God wants to help us run the race of life. What are some things that God might do to make clear his offer of salvation? What are some things that God might do to warn us away from a bad choice?

### **Point Two: Take Heart in God's Sovereign Control**

Read Matthew 26:24. Identify the phrase or phrases that show Judas was responsible for his own actions and would deserve any consequences from them. Identify the phrase or phrases that show that Judas' betrayal did not catch God by surprise.

Pastor Tom said, "Behind Judas' *plot* was God's *plan*." How can that truth help us deal with heartbreak and setbacks?



Close with praise reports and prayer requests