**Twelve – Wk 8 – Judas – The Traitor, by God’s plan**

**Happy Palm Sunday – we are walking in the disciples' footsteps…**

**They were called to be Apostles from among hundreds of disciples**

**They were not the most gifted or qualified, but God took these ordinary people and did extraordinary things.**

**Luke 6:12 In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. 13 And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: 14 Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, 15 and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, 16 and Judas the son (brother) of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.**

**THE TWELVE: All four gospels and Acts list the twelve.**

**1. Simon (Peter) - Son of Jonah / 2. Andrew (Simon's brother)**

**3. James - Son of Zebedee / 4. John (James’s brother)**

**5. Philip / 6. Bartholomew (Nathanael)**

**7. Matthew (Levi) / 8. Thomas (Didymus = the twin . Judas)**

**9. James / 10. Jude (Judas/Judah/Thaddeus Labbaeus)**

**11. Simon (the Zealot) / 12. Judas Iscariot (the traitor)**

**Today, - Judas Iscariot (the traitor) as we walk to the cross. The only one who never became an apostle.**

**What we know (from the Gospels) - Judas Iscariot**

* **His father’s name was Simon, from Kerioth, Judea (John 6:71)**
* **He saw the miracles of Jesus and knew Jesus' teaching.**
* **He had the same opportunity and enjoyed Jesus company.**
* **Knowing what he knew and saw, he did not change his heart.**
* **It is clear that he followed Jesus for selfish reasons.**
* **He betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver (4 months' wages).**
* **Every time he is mentioned, he is referred to as the traitor.**

**Now Jesus has been preparing the disciples for the culmination of his mission, the cross and resurrection. Today begins Holy week:**

**Palm Sunday, Holy Mon & Tues, Spy Wed, Maudy Thursday**

**Good Friday, Black Saturday, and Resurrection Sunday!**

**Luke 18:31 And taking the twelve, he said to them, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. 32 For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. 33 And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise.” 34 But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said. (This was the plan. A violent, bloody death)**

**Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”**

**Jesus the ransom (purchase freedom/payment)**

**That Saturday night - the day before triumphant entry (Palm Sunday)**

**John 12:1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. 3 Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. (What a beautiful act of worship and sacrifice to Jesus – $25,000+ – her life savings and future.)**

**4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, 5 “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” (sounds like a fair question… but -) 6 He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. (discovered later)**

**7 Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. 8 For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.”**

**9 When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 10 So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, 11 because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus. (They were plotting to kill both and looking for someone to turn – Judas.)**

**\*\* How the week played out:**

**Sunday – Triumphant entry – returns to Bethany. Hosanna!**

**(Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, and John 12:12-19)**

**Monday – Jesus performs miracles, teaches in temple court, and clears the temple. Pharisees plot to kill Jesus. He stays in Bethany.**

**(Matthew 21:12–22, Mark 11:15–19, Luke 19:45-48, and John 2:13-17.)**

**Tuesday - Jesus performs miracles, teaches in temple court, condemns the Pharisees, teaches disciples on the Mt. of Olives. Stays in Bethany.**

**(Matthew 21:23–24:51, Mark 11:20–13:37, Luke 20:1–21:36, and John 12:20–38)**

**Wednesday – Judas decides to betray Jesus after the incident in Bethany. Judas agrees to lead Pharisees to Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.**

**Matthew 26:14-16 Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment, he sought an opportunity to betray him. (Mark 14:3-11) His wicked heart!**

**Luke 22:1 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. 2 And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death, for they feared the people. 3 Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. 4 He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. 5 And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. 6 So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd.**

**Thursday – Day of preparation for the Passover. AtAt Passover, Jesus reveals the betrayer – Judas.**

**(Matt 26:17–75, Mark 14:12-72, Luke 22:7-62, and John 13:1-38)**

**Matthew 26:20 When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. 21 And as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” 22 And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” 23 He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. 24 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.” 25 Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.” (Mark 14:17-21)**

**John 13:21 After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” 22 The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. 23 One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, 24 so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. 25 So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, “Lord, who is it?”**

**26 Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it.” So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.” 28 Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. 29 Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the feast,” or that he should give something to the poor. 30 So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.**

* + **Judas is welcomed by Jesus, knowing what is to come.**
  + **Jesus washed Judas' feet along with the other disciples.**
  + **After dinner, Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane.**

**Friday – Early in the morning, while in the garden, Judas led authorities to Jesus, identified with a kiss. Jesus is arrested and crucified.**

**(Matthew 27:1-62, Mark 15:1-47, Luke 22:63-23:56, and John 18:28-19:37)**

**Matthew 26:47 While He was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, suddenly arrived. A large mob, with swords and clubs, was with him from the chief priests and elders of the people. 48 His betrayer had given them a sign: “The One I kiss, He’s the One; arrest Him!” 49 So he went right up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed Him. (a warm greeting – became a kiss of death) 50 “Friend,” Jesus asked him, “why have you come?” Then they came up, took hold of Jesus, and arrested Him.**

* + **Jesus was then dragged through a series of trials and false accusations – and eventual crucifixion.**

**Three important things to know about Judas:**

**1. Judas was handpicked by Jesus to betray him – Luke 6:12-16**

**Jesus, when he picked the twelve, had in mind the knowledge that Judas would betray him. It was for this purpose that he was picked. Knowing what he would do, could have picked another, but he did not.**

**2. Judas had a wicked heart. - John 12:1-6**

**He was unhappy about how Jesus was using his power – pride.**

**He was skimming from the ministry treasury – a thief.**

**He pretended to care about the poor but did not – a liar and deceptive.**

**He betrayed Jesus to his face with a kiss – fake and a fraud.**

**He was motivated and led by Satan – filled with Satan (Luke 22:3)**

**Judas was a bad seed from the beginning.**

**3. Judas was not a true follower of Jesus**

**He sought out ways to profit off of Jesus – he went to the Pharisees and looked for ways and opportunities to betray Jesus.**

**Matt 26:14 Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. 16 And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.**

**John 6:64 But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) 70 Then Jesus replied, “Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!” 71 (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)**

**This betrayal was all part of - The Cross of Christ**

**As we head into this week and Good Friday. I want to unpack the weight of the cross with you. The Cross of Christ.**

* **1 AM - Arrested – dragged across town through 7 trials**
* **Punched in the face and pounded his head with poles.**
* **Pulling out his beard with their hands.**
* **He was beaten nearly to death - by Gov. Pontious Pilate.**
* **Crown of thorns was twisted into a crown & pressed into his skull.**
* **Condemned to death by an angry mob – sent to the cross!**
* **By 9 AM - Nails in his hands and feet**
* **Bearing the weight of sins, he gasps for air every second.**
* **At 3 PM – Jesus shouts (Tete-lestai!) Finished!**
* **He gives up his Spirit to the Father – he gives his life and dies.**
* **Unsure of his death – they pierce his side to make sure…**
* **He is taken down before sunset and buried.**

**He was not the only one to ever be crucified, but he was the only one to embrace and bear the weight of the world's sins on a cross.**

**That very day, an ugly symbol of death, guilt, shame, and hate - became a beautiful picture of life, love, power, and passion of God!**

**What can we learn from Judas? A Few Lessons From The Traitor**

1. **Association does not equal salvation.**

**Judas had the appearance of good, said the right words, hung with the right people, and even had his feet washed by Jesus and ate the Passover with Jesus - but he was never truly following the Lord.**

**You can do all the right things and still not get it**

**Judas reminds us that it is possible for someone to be around Jesus, know a lot about Jesus, be counted among followers of Jesus, and actually never truly be committed to Jesus. Maybe that’s you?**

1. **Position in church does not equal position in Christ.**

**Judas had a high-level position in Jesus's top 12 people, but his position did not solidify his position in eternity.**

**Being a member of a Christian Church does not mean you are a Christian. Judas knew a lot about Jesus; spent 3 yrs with him.**

**However, knowing facts does not equal knowing Jesus. Being a part of a church does mean you are in the family of God**

**Matt 7:21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’**

**Pastors and churchgoers who are not born again. Is that you?**

1. **You can feel remorse without repentance**

**Judas did not repent to God.**

**Matthew 27:3 Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, 4 saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” They said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself.” 5 And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself.**

**Confession does not mean repentance.**

**To whom did he repent? Not God – he expressed regret to the Pharisees. He never repented to God or talked to Jesus.**

**He felt guilty, felt bad, wished he had never done it, and was even depressed about it. But his heart was the devil's. (Ac 1:18)**

**Repentance is a change of mind that results in a change of direction. It literally represents one who turns around and comes back to God - Judas never did that.**

1. **God's redemptive plan is miraculously unstoppable**

**The purpose and plan of God can never be thwarted or overthrown, even by the most cunning of people and deceitful schemers.**

**The cross was the plan of God all along – perfectly completed**

**The betrayal was not an accident or mistake – it was determined from the foundation of the world. He was chosen to betray Jesus.**

**Acts 2:22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.**

**Judas' betrayal was ordained by God. It was the plan of God.**

**Yet - Judas was not coerced. He willingly and without compulsion, in the perfect will of God, turned Jesus over (we see this throughout OT).**

**Judas did this because his heart was evil; God simply worked it, as he does all things, to counsel of his will. (Eph 1:11)**

**Speaking of Judas, Jesus said… - Matthew 26:24 The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, (prophesied and planned) 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.” (his destiny had been set - since before he was born)**

**(Prayer after an arrest and threats to stop) Acts 4:24 And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, 25 who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, “‘Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? 26 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’ (Neh 9:6, Ps 146:6, Ps 2:2) 27 - for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.**

**How? – removal of restraints - our heart and nature do what we are bent to do – evil. He simply gives people over to their own wicked desires without intervention. (Rom 1)**

**“Judas was a devil from the beginning. Judas was an unregenerate, corrupt, treacherous, lying, thieving crook before he ever met Jesus.” RC. Sproul.**

**Yet, God worked through his corruption to bring about the greatest work of salvation in human history. As was the case with the brothers of Joseph - Judas meant it for evil, but God meant it for good. (Genesis 50:20)**

**God's redemptive plan is miraculously unstoppable –**

**Three days later, that tomb was empty. Jesus is alive!!!**

**Communion**

**During dinner right after Judas is revealed - Matthew 26:26 Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” 27 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, 28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.”**

**The two on the cross – represent us! Easter???**