

When We Sin: Lessons from Judas

John 13: 21-30

What to do “when” we sin

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1: 8-9)

All twelve disciples failed Jesus

Then Jesus told them, “This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’” (Matt. 26: 31)

NLT: “Tonight all of you will desert me.”

Peter , Judas

Both were Jesus' disciples

Both made mistakes

Both were fore-warned

Both had a serious "fall"

Both "regretted" deeply
what they had done

Peter	Judas
Impetuous Galilean	Careful and calculating Judean
Jesus prayed for Peter, that his faith may not fail (Lk. 22: 31-32)	No mention of this in 4 Gospels
Forgiven & restored	Killed himself

Who are the main characters in today's Scriptural text? (John 13: 21-30)

- Jesus
- v. 23 ?
- v. 24 ?
- v. 26 ?

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25 Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?”

26 Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.

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- v. 23 – the disciple whom Jesus loved (John)
- v. 24 – Simon Peter
- v. 26 – Judas, son of Simon Iscariot

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- recorded in 4 Gospels
- John: last gospel to be written; eye-witness' account; over 90% of this gospel not found in other 3 gospels (synoptic); written to new believers and seekers after the truth
- “Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.” – Soren Kierkegaard

Important background to John 13

Six days before the Passover, during a dinner in Bethany at the home of “Simon the Leper”, Mary poured very expensive perfume on Jesus’ feet and wiped them with her hair. (see John 12: 1-3a)

... And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.[300 denarii]” He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. (Jn 12: 3b-6)

Mary anoints Jesus' feet with very expensive perfume

- This same incident recorded in Mark 14: 3-9 and Matthew 26: 6-13
- After this incident, Judas made an arrangement with the chief priests to betray Jesus for 30 silver coins

Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

(Matthew 26:

What made Judas betray Jesus?

- Greedy and loved money
- Disappointed in Jesus – did not fit disciples' expectations of a Messiah
- How can the Messiah accomplish his mission to deliver God's people by suffering and dying?
- After the cross and resurrection, and 40 days of teaching post-resurrection, the disciples still asked: "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6)

Important background to John 13

- Jesus assigned Peter and John to make preparations for the Passover meal

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.” (Lk. 22: 7-8; cf. Mk. 14: 12-15)

- Venue didn't come with a servant to take care of the guests
- Servant washes the feet of guests upon arrival
- None of the disciples saw themselves as a servant

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

8 “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.”

Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

9 “Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”

10 Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. ... 17 “Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”

18 “I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: ‘He who shared my bread has turned against me.’

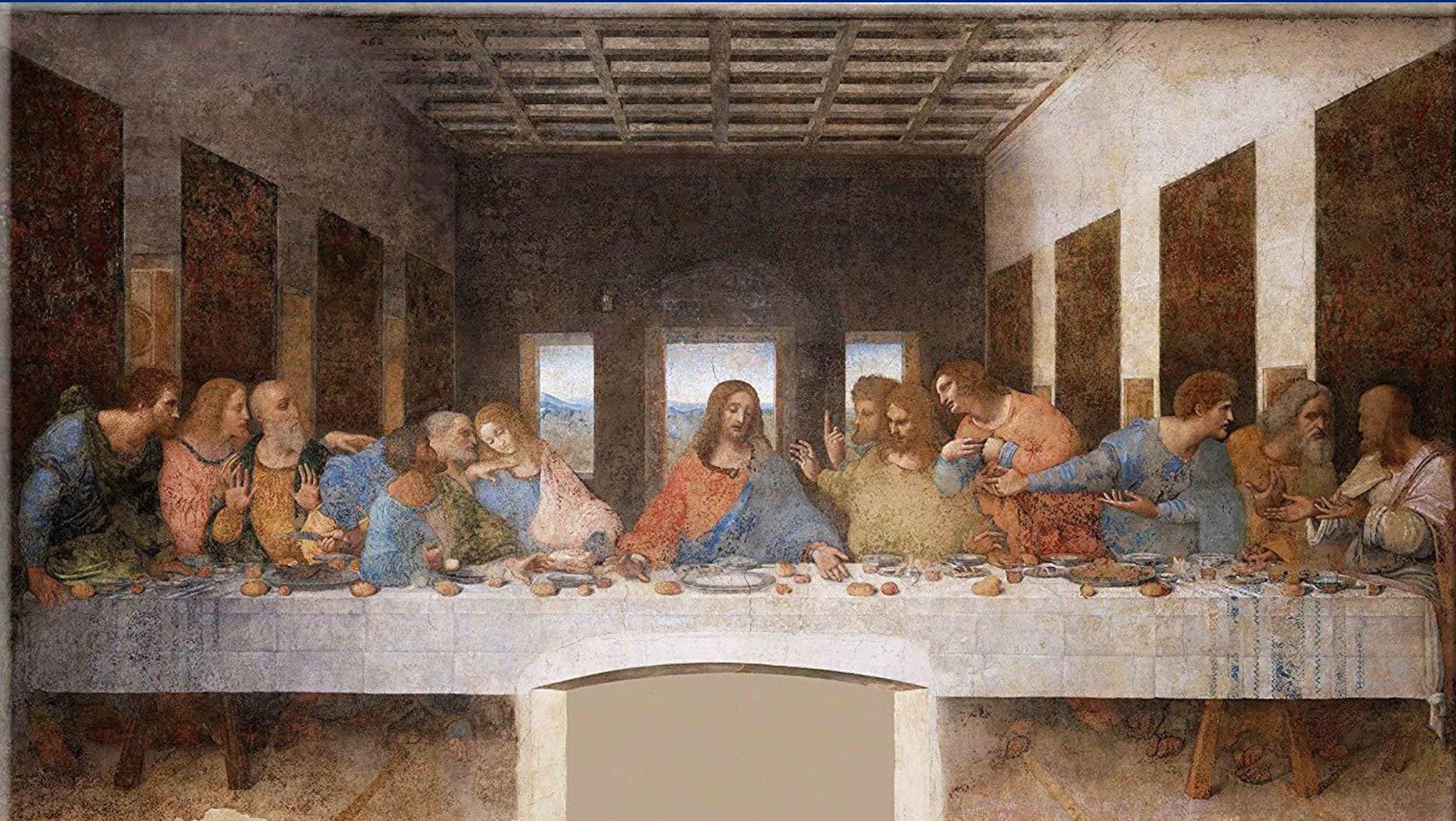
19 “I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am. 20 Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me.”

21 After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.”

22 His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. 23 One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. 24 Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, “Ask him which one he means.”

25 Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?”

This was not the seating arrangement



They “reclined” for the meal (Triclinium)



25 Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him,
“Lord, who is it?”

26 Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.”²⁸ But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him.²⁹ Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor.³⁰ As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

What did Judas want by betraying Jesus?

- He didn't mean for anyone he cared about to get hurt
- Devastated by what happened after Jesus' arrest

Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood." (Matt. 27: 1-4a)

Judas tried to undo what he had done

“What is that to us?” they replied.

“That’s your responsibility.”

5 So Judas threw the money into the temple and left.

Then he went away and hanged himself.

6 The chief priests picked up the coins and said,

“It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money.” 7 So they decided to use the

money to buy the potter’s field as a burial place for

foreigners.8 That is why it has been called the

Field of Blood to this day. (Matt. 27: 4b-8)

Productive vs. unproductive remorse/regret

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

(2 Cor. 7:10)

For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death.

(2 Cor. 7:10; NLT)

Judas' regret offered him no escape from his sin ...

- because he never believed in what Jesus had said

“I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: ‘He who shared my bread has turned against me.’

“I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am.

(John 13: 18-19)

Judas' regret offered him no escape from his sin ...

- because he never believed in what Jesus had said
- Judas went back to the chief priests and elders to “confess” his sin
- He never went to Jesus to confess his sin

Judas' regret offered him no escape from his sin ...

- because he never believed in what Jesus had said

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Judas' persisted in his unbelief

- He didn't believe when Jesus said He was going to be crucified
- Ultimately, when He desperately needed Jesus to forgive his sin, Judas remained in his unbelief
- Judas always addressed Jesus as "Rabbi", never as "Lord"

Two sides of the same coin

Repentance: we turn from sin

Faith: we recognize that God is bigger and better than anything sin offers

Two sides of the same coin

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