

“A Character Study of Judas”  
Matt 26:14-16, 20-25, 45-50  
“Passion Week” Message Series  
Pastor Paul Bartelme  
New Vintage Church, West Allis



SUNDAY	-----	MONDAY	-----	TUESDAY	-----	THURSDAY	-----	FRIDAY	-----	SATURDAY
Palm		Clearing out		Various		Upper Room		Good		In a
Sunday		the Temple		Teachings		Discourse		Friday		Tomb

To \_\_\_\_\_ **someone is to be disloyal by**... misleading, forsaking, deceiving, or abandoning.

- Friend stabbing you in the back, employee cheating on their timecard, spouse having an affair, parent breaking their promise, roommate not doing their fair share, workmate stealing your lunch...
- If we're honest with ourselves... (But we know this! This is why we're in church, right?)

**Let's look at the most notorious traitor of them all: Judas... yet from a different angle.**

*Judas had the wrong \_\_\_\_\_ of who Jesus was. Many today do as well.*

**Matthew chapter 26:14-16, 20-25, and 45-50 will provide the details.**

- 1. VV 14-16... “The Plan” – Judas perceived Jesus as the One who would deliver Israel from Roman oppression. Yet, it looked like Jesus needed some help. After all, there were the P\_\_\_\_\_ that Judas enjoyed (Jn 12:6).
  - How can we relate? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. VV 20-25... “The Announcement” – By this time Judas' hopes and dreams for a P\_\_\_\_\_ of authority in the reestablishment of the Davidic kingdom is waning (Lk 22:3).
  - How can we relate? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. VV 45-50... “The Betrayal” – Judas, drunk with P\_\_\_\_\_, leading the authorities of that day (Lk 22:52) to fulfill the prophesy of Isaiah 53:8.
  - How can we relate? \_\_\_\_\_

**The main point is that, like Judas...** we can also have the wrong perception of who Jesus is... and what He is calling into.

**“Well pastor, who then is Jesus and what is He calling me into?”** Glad you asked. By the way, this will require courage. He's calling you into:

- Believing in His claims (turn over)
- Renouncing your own piety (Lk 5:1-8; Isa 6:1-8)
- A life of generosity (Prov 3:9-10; Mt 6:21)
- A life of total surrender (Lk 9:23-27)

**Your Kingdom Assignment for the week:** 1) Be encouraged to circle one of the above 4 bullet points that the Holy Spirit is saying to you, right now, “Follow through!” 2) Take action this week! By doing so, you're saying to Jesus, “I AM YOURS!”

## Inspired by the Ministry "Stand to Reason"

Jesus either directly or indirectly made many profound claims for Himself:

1. Eternal God veiled in flesh (Mk 2:1-12)
2. Giver of eternal life (Jn 10:28)
3. One with the Father (Jn 10:30)
4. One who forgives sin (Mk 2:10)
5. The bread of life (Jn 6:35)
6. The great "I Am" (Jn 8:58)
7. The Giver of living water springing up into eternal life (Jn 4:10)
8. The Light of the World promising the light of life (Jn 8:12)
9. The future Judge (Jn 5:22-23)
10. The Baptizer in the Holy Spirit (Lk 3:16)
11. The Door of salvation (Jn 10:9)
12. The Savior (Jn 3:14-16)
13. The Messiah (Jn 4:26)
14. The Healer (Lk 18:42)

Jesus' greatest claim: "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me" (Jn 14:6).

This is the cornerstone claim of Jesus because it subsumes all other claims under one of these three categories.

### 1. The Way

- a. Lit. *hodos*, "a natural path, road, way" (Vines, p. 668).
- b. Jesus is the exclusive source of salvation. He's not a way but the Way.
  - 1) This is the most offensive claim of Jesus, it seems.
  - 2) It is the first claim that is jettisoned when Christian groups begin to get "tolerant."
  - 3) Yet there are many separate lines of reasoning that the Scripture gives demonstrating why Jesus is the only true "way."
    1. Jesus is the source of salvation for the world (Acts 4:11-12).
    2. Rejection of Jesus results in God's wrath; belief in Jesus rescues from wrath (Jn 3:36).
    3. Jesus is the one who provides forgiveness from sin (John 8:24).
    4. Many imposters will claim to provide salvation (Matt 24:4-5).
    5. But there are no other alternatives for salvation (Gal 2:21).
    6. Therefore, all nations are to be given this Gospel (Lk 24:47).

### 2. The Truth

- a. Lit. *aletheia*, "The reality lying at the basis of an appearance; the manifested, veritable essence of a matter...Not merely ethical 'truth,' but 'truth' in all its fullness and scope" (Vines, p. 645).
- b. Jesus is the substantial foundation of all reality.

### 3. The Life

- a. Lit. *zoe*, "Used in the NT of life as a principle, life in the absolute sense, the life as God has it, that which the Father has in Himself" (Vines, p. 367).
  - 1) Life which He gave to the Incarnate Son to have in Himself (Jn 5:26).
  - 2) Life from which man has become alienated as a result of the fall, "...excluded from the life of God" (Eph 4:18).
- b. This "life" is a reference to Jesus deity. Jesus is the life; He doesn't merely have the life. He is the source of it.
  - 1) Conclusion: Jesus is God in the flesh, representing to man all that God is and His plan for mankind (Col 1:15-22).