

² And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. ³ Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.

⁴ Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to **them, "Whom are you seeking?"** ⁵ **They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth."** Jesus said to them, **"I am He."** **And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them.** John 18:2-5 NKJV

Judas the betrayer, also called the "son of perdition" by Jesus, sold out the Son of God for 30 pieces of silver. He swapped out eternal glory for temporary gain, treating lightly the position of favour he had been offered. He did not value God in his life.

He had been received into Jesus' circle as one of His disciples, had walked with Him, heard His teachings first hand, had a front row seat to witness His miracles and even had the opportunity to participate in His ministry, yet it wasn't enough for him.

Judas Iscariot's desire for stuff was greater than His desire for God. He had been in the presence of God, but had not allowed his own heart to be transformed. When Jesus had washed His disciples' feet earlier the same night, He had said, **"you are clean, but not all of you."** For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, **"You are not all clean."** (John 13:10-11)

Judas was seen with Jesus and His followers, but Jesus was not His Lord. There was no fear of God in his life, which is evidenced by his boldness in being able to steal from Jesus' treasury without conscience.

But for God's grace and mercy, we might all find ourselves treating God with such disdain, but we praise God for sending His Son to die for all of our sin and shortcomings, that our righteousness can be found in Him, that those who put their trust in Him can be given a new heart!

Judas was destined to betray the Son of God, but we all have the opportunity to fall on the grace of God in our time of temptation and trial. It is never too late to repent and accept Jesus' pardon.

- 1) Is Jesus your Lord?
- 2) What do you need God's grace for today?
- 3) Are you more focused on the here and now than on eternity?

Based on today's reading, what is one thing God is saying to you?