



From Betrayal to Belief

Matthew 26:1-9 (NIV)

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, ²“As you know, the Passover is two days away—and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.” ³Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, ⁴and they schemed to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. ⁵“But not during the festival,” they said, “or there may be a riot among the people.” ⁶While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, ⁷a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. ⁸When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. ⁹“This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.”

Matthew 26:10-16 (NIV)

Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ¹¹The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. ¹²When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. ¹³Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.” ¹⁴Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests ¹⁵and 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. ¹⁶From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

Matthew 26:47-50 (NIV)

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.” ⁴⁹Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. ⁵⁰Jesus replied, “Do what you came for, friend.” Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him.

Matthew 27:1-5 (NIV)

Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. ²So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor. ³When 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. ⁴“I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.” “What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.” ⁵So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

Life Lessons from Easter’s Ultimate Bad Boy:

1. Judas shows us that “insiders” can actually be outsiders!

- Judas was a physical insider but a spiritual outsider. (Matthew 7:21)

2. Judas’ life reveals the dangers of bargaining with God!

- Judas bargains with Jesus but never surrenders to Jesus.
- Bargaining always sets us up for betrayal.
- Betrayers are responsible for the outcome of their journey. (Matthew 27:4)
- We can resist God but we will be responsible for the outcome.
- Betrayers experience life’s greatest regret! (Matthew 27:3-5)
- When we surrender, God takes responsibility for the outcome of our journey.

3. Judas could be bought! (Matthew 26:14-16)

- Betrayal is trading something we can’t keep for something we can’t lose.
- What’s your 30 pieces of silver?