



Judas Missed The Mark  
John 18:1-8

## As Jesus began His earthly ministry, He had a single message

- **Matthew 4:17 NLT**, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”
  - **AMP**, “Repent [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, regret past sins, live your life in a way that proves repentance; seek God’s purpose for your life], for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
- It’s not enough to just feel bad or even hate the circumstances resulting from your sin

## As Jesus began His earthly ministry, He had a single message

- You must stop the direction your life has been going, turn and face God – Why?
  - You have as Paul stated in **Romans 3:23 NLT**, “We all fall short of God’s glorious standard.”
  - Your spiritual arrow has missed the target of God’s standard for your life

## **As Jesus began His earthly ministry, He had a single message**

- You have determined where to shoot your arrow
- You have wasted your arrows given to you by God, by shooting them the darkness
- You have wasted your arrows given to you by God, by shooting them and wounded others along with yourself
- The only answer is to turn, face God and allow Him to direct where and when to shoot your arrow

## **As Jesus began His earthly ministry, He had a single message**

- Jesus' message was, "There is a new Kingdom on earth, spiritually at first then eventually physically, where God's standards will be the norm and Jesus will be the King"
- Jesus then began modeling what that Kingdom looks like by living it on earth
- He took the Law of Moses and taught it with authority, teaching what it really was meant to be

## **As Jesus began His earthly ministry, He had a single message**

- He defined a new way of thinking and living
- All of Jesus' words and actions were meant for the purpose of asking the question, "Who am I?"

## As Jesus began His earthly ministry, He had a single message

- **Matthew 16:13-15 NLT**, 13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 “Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.” 15 Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?”

## As Jesus began His earthly ministry, He had a single message

- **Matthew 16:16 NLT**, Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”
  - We don’t understand it all, but you are our target Jesus

## As Jesus began His earthly ministry, He had a single message

- **John 6:66-69 NLT**, 66 At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him. 67 Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, “Are you also going to leave?” 68 Simon Peter replied, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. 69 We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God.”

## As Jesus began His earthly ministry, He had a single message

- But there was one who seemed to be a disciple who continued to refuse to acknowledge and accept who Jesus was and is
  - **John 6:70-71 NLT**, 70 Then Jesus said, “I chose the twelve of you, but one is a devil.” 71 He was speaking of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, one of the Twelve, who would later betray him.

## **As Jesus began His earthly ministry, He had a single message**

- The result was Judas continued to refuse to repent and turn to God
  - He refused to acknowledge, to accept Jesus
  - The result was he completely missed the mark and betrayed the Son of God

## Scripture

- **John 18:1-8 NIV**, When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it. 2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. 3 So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

## Scripture

- **John 18:1-8 NIV**, 4 Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?” 5 “Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “I am he,” Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) 6 When Jesus said, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground.

## Scripture

- **John 18:1-8 NIV**, 7 Again he asked them, “Who is it you want?” “Jesus of Nazareth,” they said. 8 Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go.” 9 This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: “I have not lost one of those you gave me.”

## **Judas knew some things about Jesus, but he did not know Him**

- He had the same opportunities as the rest of the disciples
- He saw the same miracles, heard the same wisdom, saw and understood the life Jesus was demonstrating before them
- But Jesus was not the Messiah Judas wanted so he played the game, enjoyed the excitement, but when it was decision time Judas missed the mark

## **Judas knew Jesus was powerful with authority from God**

- Judas has seen Jesus overcome demons
  - Walk through a crowd intent on stoning Him or throwing Him off a cliff several times
  - Speak to storms and still them
  - Walk on water
  - Gave Judas authority over sickness, even death
  - Judas has heard the wilderness testing of Jesus and how He defeated Satan

## Judas knew Jesus was powerful with authority from God

- He brought with him **Vs. 2**, “a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees.”
  - A detachment of trained Roman soldiers would be between 300-600
  - He also brought along trained temple guards who had the authority to arrest Jesus

## Judas knew Jesus was powerful with authority from God

- He brought with him **Vs. 2**, “a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees.”
  - To arrest a single individual and maybe the 11 men following Him who were untrained for combat
  - Or maybe he thought there might be more of his disciples following him up to 100 individuals

## Judas knew Jesus was powerful with authority from God

- Judas was intent on finding Jesus to have him arrested
  - **Vs. 3,** “They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.”
  - They will look in every cave, corner of this garden to ensure Jesus is found and arrested
  - They will trust in their weapons and clubs to secure their target and make sure their will is carried out
  - They had lights to see but their hearts were dark

## Judas knew where to find Jesus

- **Vs. 1-2**, “On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it. 2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples.”
  - Notice Jesus is not hiding out, trying to avoid the arrest
  - Judas thought he had it all figured out and in control, but he found it was Jesus who was in complete and total control

## Judas knew where to find Jesus

- Jesus didn't plan on walking away unharmed because this was the time He came for
- Where do you find Jesus today?
  - In His church, this is His garden today
  - You find Him in His born-again true believers today
  - You find Him in His Scriptures today

## Judas knew where to find Jesus

- Just because you know where to find Him does not mean you know Him
  - Just because you have been in His presence does not mean you know Him
  - You can come to church your entire life, read the Bible through every year, do church things
  - But until you are ready to accept who Jesus is on His terms you do not know Him

## Judas knew where to find Jesus

- **Matthew 7:21-23 NLT**, 21 “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. 22 On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ 23 But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’”

## Judas knew where to find Jesus

- **John 6:28-29 NLT**, 28 They replied, “We want to perform God’s works, too. What should we do?” 29 Jesus told them, “This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent.”
  - Accept who I say I am and seek me with all your heart and mind and strength and soul
  - Judas and the rest of these men continued to miss the God’s target

## Jesus gave them one last chance to repent as He demonstrates who really is in control

- Judas' plan would have worked for just a healer or miracle worker or teacher, but not the Son of God
- **Vs. 4** Jesus went out or stepped out between His disciples and this crowd of arresters
  - Let your mind's eye see this scene
  - On one side stood all the best that man had to offer
  - On the other are those who knew and accepted Jesus

## **Jesus gave them one last chance to repent as He demonstrates who really is in control**

- See Jesus standing in the gap between His disciples and arrestors
  - See Him stand in the gap between Satan, our accuser before the Lord
  - See Him stand in the gap between a Holy, Righteous God

## Jesus gave them one last chance to repent as He demonstrates who really is in control

- **Ezekiel 22:30 NLT**, “I looked for someone who might rebuild the wall of righteousness that guards the land. I searched for someone to stand in the gap in the wall so I wouldn’t have to destroy the land, but I found no one.”
  - There is one today who stands in the gap, we call Him Savior, Lord, Friend, Brother, Jesus Christ the Son of the Living God

## **Jesus gave them one last chance to repent as He demonstrates who really is in control**

- How many of you know when God asks a question it's not because He doesn't know the answer?
  - God asked Adam and Eve the question, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat of the tree?"
- Jesus knowing all that was going to happen asked, "Who is it you want?"
- Their response was an arrogant slur, "Jesus of Nazareth"

## **Jesus gave them one last chance to repent as He demonstrates who really is in control**

- With His answer, Jesus revealed truth, “I am”
  - The same “I am” in Exodus, There is no doubt to them what Jesus meant
- To prove His point, all the men who came to arrest Him were forcedly pushed back making them fall to the ground

## Jesus gave them one last chance to repent as He demonstrates who really is in control

- **Philippians 2:10-11 NLT**, “10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

## Jesus gave them one last chance to repent as He demonstrates who really is in control

- In other word, Jesus is in control and no one else
- The arresting party was in shock, so Jesus had to remind them why they came
- **Vs. 7**, Again he asked them, “Who is it you want?” “Jesus of Nazareth,” they said. 8 Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go.”

## **Jesus gave them one last chance to repent as He demonstrates who really is in control**

- I wonder what force was in their voice in responding to Jesus this time
- And since I am in control, let these men go without arresting or harassing them
- And they agreed, not because of their authority but the authority of God demonstrated here

## Jesus gave them one last chance to repent as He demonstrates who really is in control

- Jesus' words were once again proven true, **Vs. 9**, This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."
- I'm reminded of David standing before Goliath with a sling and five smooth stones

## Jesus gave them one last chance to repent as He demonstrates who really is in control

- **1st Samuel 17:45 NLT**, David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.”

**The question Jesus asked His disciples must be answered by every person, “Who do you say I am?”**

- You could answer, “He was a great healer!” and you would be correct but still your arrow is missing the mark
- Or maybe a “great teacher, humanitarian, miracle worker” and you would be correct but still your arrow is missing the mark

**The question Jesus asked His disciples must be answered by every person, “Who do you say I am?”**

- The only answer that allows your arrow to point to eternity and forgiveness of your sin debt is, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God”
- Not just words said, but truths placed into your rebellious heart that allows God to born you renewed spiritually
- Receiving a brand-new heart that is bent towards God

**The question Jesus asked His disciples must be answered by every person, “Who do you say I am?”**

- Have you done this?
- Not just said the words, but received Jesus as your Lord, Master, and Savior
- If not, you will hear the words spoken by Jesus, “Depart from Me (*eternally*). You never knew Me, and the result is I never knew you as Mine!”

**The question Jesus asked His disciples must be answered by every person, “Who do you say I am?”**

- The words of Joshua are still true today in **Joshua 24:15 NIV**, “But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”



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