

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

③⑧ Re-Think of Gospel

INTRODUCTION | Judas' betrayal

Today's passage talks about a very shocking story. Jesus is betrayed by one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot and arrested by the Jews. Why would Judas betray Jesus? Firstly, let's search for the cause. From this, we can see clearer the mechanism of our life problems. Secondly, let's take a look at how Jesus' truth and love shine through this betrayal story. They can change our lives. Thirdly, let's see how Jesus' truth and love become a reality thanks to his sacrifice.

SCRIPTURE | John 18:1-14

18:1 When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the ravine of the Kieran, where there was a garden, in which He entered with His disciples. 2 Now Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place, for Jesus had often met there with His disciples. 3 Judas then, having received the Roman cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. 4 So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" 5 They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said to them, "I am He." And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. 6 So when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. 7 Therefore He again asked them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus the Nazarene." 8 Jesus answered, "I told you that I am He; so if you seek Me, let these go their way," 9 to fulfill the word which He spoke, "Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one." 10 Simon Peter then, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus. 11 So Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?" 12 So the Roman cohort and the commander and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him, 13 and led Him to Annas first; for he was father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. 14 Now Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was expedient for one man to die on behalf of the people.

QUESTIONS |

- 1: (verses 1-3) Judas spent three years by Jesus' side, living together, seeing his miracles, being touch by the Gospel. How could he betray Jesus and sell him to the Jews for 30 pieces of silver? (reference: John 12: 3-6)
- 2: Not only Judas did not believe in Jesus, but he wasted his life for money. What kind of problem does appear if we do not believe in Jesus as the Savior?
- 3: (verses 4-7) When Judas arrives in Gethsemane garden leading a group of armed people, what is Jesus' reaction? What is emphasized about Jesus in this situation? (reference: Jesus' answer, "I am He" referring to Exodus 3: 14)
- 4: If Jesus is God and the almighty king, how should we lead our life? If Jesus is God, how does it influence our way of thinking and of living?
- 5: (verses 8-9) When Jesus was betrayed by Judas and then arrested, what does he care for? What can we conclude for ourselves about Jesus' concern for us?
- 6: If we ignore Jesus and become our own king, what happens? Jesus stretched his hand to us and accomplished God's plan by scarifying himself in Gethsemane garden for the fallen humanity at Eden garden. What would our life look like if we really trust in this true and loving Savior? (reference: Alister McGrath)

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REFERENCES |

John 12: 3-6

12:3 Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, 5 “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor people?” 6 Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.

Exodus 3: 14

3:14 God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

Alister McGrath

“The desire of human to control is the source of immanent self-denial. Once we have power, we mess up.”

PRAYER |

- Jesus is the real God, he showed us the truth, he loves us and protects us. Let’s praise him. He humbled himself, accomplished God’s will and sacrificed his life for self-centered sinners who want to take God’s place. May our Savior be glorified!
- We are self-satisfied and follow our selfish desires, wanting to become God in our life. But this leads to self-denial, and just like Judas, we mess up. Let’s humbly confess our sins and come closer to Jesus for he is truth and love.

UPCOMING EVENTS | This Week & Next Week

Lunch time meeting (17 Akasaka, 18 Kasumigaseki, 19 Otemachi), obento project (21), celebration of love (20, 21 @ Nihon Budokan)
worship & fellowship (22 @ Nihonbashi Hamacho F Tower 3F), lunch time meeting (25 Marunouchi, 26 Otemachi),
worship & fellowship (29 @ KDDI Hall)