

Holy Week Devotionals
By R. L. Tigh

Wednesday “Betrayal Begins”

Matthew 26:2-5; Mark 14:1-2; Luke 22:1-2

“It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened bread. And the chief priests and scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him... Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him.” Mark 14:1-2, 10-11

Jesus was daily teaching in the temple. He was refuting the error of the scribes and Pharisees, the false shepherds of the children of Israel. The anger and resentment of these false teachers was growing. Their plans were beginning to take shape concerning how to be rid of Jesus. Knowing what was about to transpire, Jesus said about them, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!”¹ Judas Iscariot under the influence of Satan² went to sell his master and friend to them. The Psalmist a thousand years earlier speaking under inspiration of the Holy Spirit said, “For it is not an enemy who taunts me – then I could bear it; it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me – then I could hide from him. But it is you, a man, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend. We used to take sweet counsel together; within God’s house, we walked in the throng.”³ Jesus would be betrayed by a friend. It was one who shared the last three years with him. Judas saw the miracles; he shared in the ministry; he heard the word of truth. In the end he rejected it for a bag full of coins. This was all part of the Father’s plan for his glory and our salvation. In the Apostle Peter’s Pentecost sermon speaking about this event Peter said, “...this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God...”⁴ God used sinful beings to carry out his plans to put away sin forever. Judas, the Chief Priest, and Satan were all used by God to carry out his great plan for man’s salvation.

Hymn

“Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended” by Johann Heermann, Trinity Hymnal, page #248

The Baptist Catechism

Question: “How does Christ execute the office of a priest?”

Answer: “Christ executes the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and to reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.”

Family Activity

Poem: Work together to create a poem about the betrayal of Jesus Christ by Judas Iscariot. Write the poem on a piece of paper and frame it. Attach yarn or string to the back for hanging.

Example...

Silver paid
Jesus betrayed
Blood spilt
Man saved

¹ Matthew 23:37; ² John 13:27; ³ Psalm 55: 12-14; ⁴ Acts 2:23