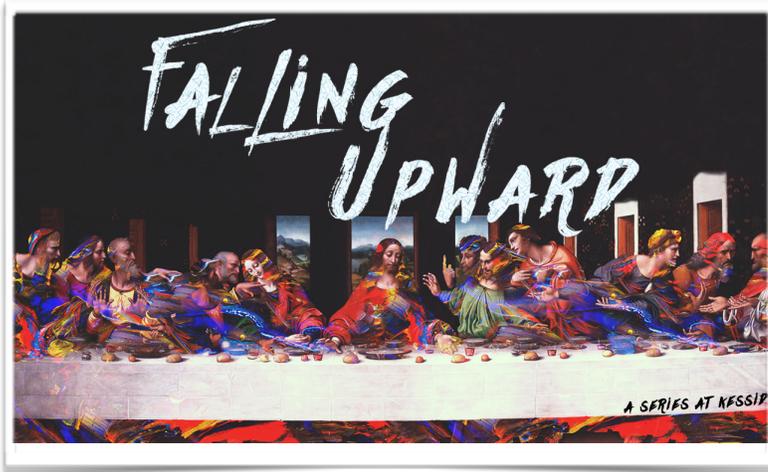


# KESSID HIGHLIGHTS



## Sermon

*"Falling Upward: Clean"*

## Date

11-13-16

## Speaker

*Pastor Danny Clinton*

## JUDAS, SON OF JAMES

- The last name on the list of faithful disciples is "*Judas, the son of James.*" - Luke 6.
- The name Judas, in and of itself, is a fine name. It means "Jehovah leads."
- But because of the treachery of Judas Iscariot, the name Judas will forever bear a negative connotation.
- When the apostle John mentions him, he calls him "*Judas (not Iscariot).*"
- Matthew calls him "***Thaddaeus.***" He is also labelled "*the minor*", "*the little*", "*the lesser.*"

**Thaddaeus and Jesus** (Vs) John 14:21 – "*Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.*"

- Then John adds, (Vs 22) – *Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?"*
- *Here we see the tender-hearted humility of this man. He doesn't say anything brash or bold or overconfident...Judas (Not Iscariot) wanted to know, "Why are you going to disclose Yourself to us and not the whole world?"*
- *He couldn't believe that Jesus would manifest Himself to this rag-tag group of eleven, and not to the whole world...*

**Jesus gave him a marvelous answer, and the answer was as tender as the question...**

*"Jesus answered him, (Vs 23) "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."*

- "I'm not going to take over the world externally; I'm going to take over hearts, one at a time. If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word. And if he keeps My Word, My Father and I will come to him and together we'll set up the kingdom in his heart."
- Christ is far more concerned with our Inner Kingdoms than our Outer Kingdoms. He wants hearts that yearn for Him.

# JUDAS ISCARIOT

## **The most notorious of all the disciples is Judas Iscariot, the betrayer...**

- His name appears last in every biblical list of apostles, except for the list in Acts 1, where it doesn't appear at all.
- Every time Judas is mentioned in Scripture, we also find a notation about his being a traitor.

## **He spent three years with Jesus Christ, but for all that time his heart was only growing hard and hateful.**

**Realize:** Judas was as common as the rest, without earthly credentials and without characteristics that made him stand out from the group. But he never laid hold of the truth by faith, so he was never transformed like the rest.

## **Two clear warnings I'd like you to notice as we speak about the life of this man...**

- First: The life of Judas reminds us that it is possible to be near Christ and associate with Him closely (but superficially) and yet become utterly hardened in sin.
- Second: Judas reminds us that no matter how sinful a person may be, no matter what treachery he or she may attempt against God, the purpose of God cannot be thwarted. Even the worst act of treachery works toward the fulfillment of the divine plan. He can use anything or anyone we can imagine to bring glory to Himself, every single time.

## **The New Testament actually tells us plenty about Judas ...**

- His surname, Iscariot, signifies the region he came from. He was apparently the only one of the apostles who did not come from Galilee.
- Judas's father was named Simon; This Simon is otherwise unknown to us. Beyond that, we know nothing of Judas's family or social background.
- The call of Judas is not recorded in Scripture – yet it is obvious, that he followed Jesus willingly,
- Like the other eleven, he left whatever he may have been engaged in to follow Jesus full-time.
- It is equally obvious, however, that Judas was not attracted to Christ on a spiritual level. He most likely followed Jesus out of a desire for selfish gain, worldly ambition, and greed.

Overtime, Judas, slowly became disillusioned. The worldliness in his heart was never conquered.

## **This is most clearly seen in John Ch. 12**

- Shortly after the raising of Lazarus, and just before Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, Jesus was invited to a meal at the home of one "Simon the Leper." (Vs) John 12:1-3 records what happened.
- This act was shocking in its extravagance. Not only was it an overt act of worship, but it also had the appearance of wastefulness...

*"But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup> "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" (Vs. 4-5)*

- Remember, a denarius was basically a working man's daily wage. Three hundred denarii is a full year's wages (allowing for Sabbaths and holidays off).
- The apostle John, reflecting on this incident years later, wrote, "He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it." (Vs) John 12:6

"Jesus responded to Judas in verses (Vs 7-8) – Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it<sup>d</sup> for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

## THE UPPER ROOM

- (Vs) John 13:1-2 "Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2 During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him." Jesus then prepares the disciples hearts by teaching them a lesson in humility by washing their feet.
- (Vs) John 13:3-11 – "Yet not all of them are clean..." Jesus knows Judas is going to betray him.
- It's at this point, Jesus's spirit began to be troubled. (Vs) John 13:21-30 – Jesus sends Judas away. He was no longer in relationship with Christ.

**Note:** Only after Judas left did our Lord institute The Lords Supper...

- To this day, we are asked to examine ourselves before taking parts in the sacraments...
- It's not until John 18 that we see Judas once more betraying Jesus with a kiss. (Vs) John 18:1-5 – (Luke Ch:22 "With a kiss...")
- As soon as the deal was done, Judas regretted it... His conscience immediately came alive...

**Matthew concludes his account...** (Vs) Matthew 27:3-8

**Note:** Judas had Remorse not Repentance. He was sorry not because he had sinned against Christ, but because his sin had not satisfied him the way he had hoped.

- He never did cry out for Mercy or Forgiveness... Instead he tried to silence his tormented soul by killing himself.
- The last word in scripture about Judas... (Vs) Acts 1:17,18 – "his bowels gushed out."
- It's as Jesus said... (Vs) Mark 14:21 "For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

**After the death of Judas, his office was filled by Matthias** - This man had been with Jesus from his baptism until his death... he was another ordinary man chosen for an extraordinary calling...

- In the end, what defeated Judas was the same thing that allowed him to betray Christ in the first place...
- Judas had a lack of faith in the redeeming power of Christ's Love. He didn't believe that God's power was big enough or strong enough.

**Note:** It wasn't that his particular sin was beyond forgiveness... The lack of faith Judas had in the redeeming power of Christ's love first brought about his betrayal. Now it worked against him after his own gross transgression. He thought he was too filthy to be clean.

- There is nothing you have done that He can't make clean.

*Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!  
Psalm 51:1-2*

*Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?  
And who shall stand in his holy place?  
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to what is false  
and does not swear deceitfully.  
He will receive blessing from the Lord  
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.  
Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.  
Psalm 24: 3-6*