

## THE BIG IDEA: WHO we have in common is more powerful than WHAT we don't.

### The Take-Off

Today we're bringing our Party of Twelve series to a close by looking at some lessons we can learn from the one member who left the party - Judas Iscariot

But before we get to him, let's recap what we've learned from the other 11:

- Jesus chooses messy people like Peter
- Jesus chooses faithful people like Andrew
- Jesus chooses angry people like James and John
- Jesus chooses practical people like Philip
- Jesus chooses skeptical people like Bartholomew
- Jesus chooses fighting people like Matthew the tax collector and Simon the Zealot
- Jesus chooses invisible people like James the Less and Judas (the other one)
- Jesus chooses doubting people like Thomas

Why would Jesus choose such men? Because He knew what they would become if they focused on who they had in common more than on what they didn't

10 of those 11 men were martyred for their faith in Jesus by being crucified, stoned, beheaded, clubbed, sawed in 2. Only 1 - John - is believed to have died of old age, but that's because he didn't die when he was boiled in a vat of oil in the coliseum before being banished. (Tertullian records that the entire coliseum converted to Christianity when John escaped unharmed from the boiling oil!)

Now, let's see what we can learn from the one member who left the party early.

### 1. A quick sketch of a sketchy life

- a. Judas Iscariot had lots of involvement in Jesus' ministry and all of it was negative
- b. That's a pretty significant takeaway, but we'll unpack it more toward the end
- c. Some things we know about Judas:
  - He was a treasurer / John 13:29
  - He was a thief / John 12:1-6
  - He was a traitor
    - Matt. 27:9 / he was paid 30 pieces of silver
    - Exodus 21:32 / 30 pieces was the value of a slave, and Judas was a slave of Satan (John 13:2, 27)
- d. We know that Judas had regret over what he'd done and took his own life (Matthew 27:5)
- e. 2 Cor. 7:10 / There's a difference between being truly sorry and sorry that we got caught or that our plans didn't work out like we'd hoped

### 2. Takeaways

- a. Let's wrap this up with some pretty painful takeaways - my prayer is that we would all examine ourselves!
- b. ONE: **Being around Jesus doesn't make us disciples of Jesus**
  - It isn't enough to like Jesus or even love Jesus if we aren't willing to be led by Jesus
  - Judas never called Jesus his Lord!
  - Matt. 26:20-25 / everyone else said "Lord" but Judas said "Rabbi"
  - Is Jesus just your life coach or is He your life?
- c. TWO: **When Jesus is Lord our agendas won't rule us**
  - From complaining about an offering that he deemed too lavish to trying to call the shots at the end of Jesus' ministry, Judas never bowed his agenda to God's
  - The 3 words "Jesus is Lord" end every discussion about our agendas and preferences because we yield control to Jesus when we acknowledge Him as Lord

### The Landing

More than likely Jesus said, "Follow Me" to each of the 12 members of the Party of Twelve - obviously, they said yes. But there was a deeper call given later that Judas didn't answer, but I'm praying you say yes to it:

As we close this series, let me read it to you - [Luke 9:24-26 \(NIV\)](#) - and let's respond

Let's pray