

Summary

This sermon explores the tragic story of Judas Iscariot's betrayal of Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, examining how people throughout history have traded away what matters most for temporary gain. Pastor Chris draws parallels between Judas and other biblical figures like Esau (who sold his birthright for a bowl of food), Joseph's brothers (who sold him into slavery), and Gomer from Hosea (who was redeemed by her faithful husband). The central message emphasizes that while people continue to sell out for money, pleasure, popularity, or temporary satisfaction, Jesus never sells us out. Instead, He purchased our redemption with His blood. The sermon concludes with a powerful illustration about a wealthy man whose will stated that whoever takes his son's portrait gets everything, paralleling how those who accept Jesus as their Savior inherit all of God's promises and eternal life.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts, ready to receive what You have for us today. Open our minds to understand Your Word and our hearts to receive Your truth. Help us to see the incredible value of Your Son Jesus and what He has done for us. Lord, we ask that You speak to each person here according to their need, and help us to be receptive to whatever You want to teach us through this time together. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's something you owned as a child that seemed incredibly valuable to you at the time, but looking back now, you realize wasn't worth much at all?

Key Verses

- Matthew 26:14-16
- Mark 8:36
- Genesis 25:29-34
- 1 Peter 1:18-19
- Ephesians 5:25

Questions

- How does Judas's question 'What will you give me?' reveal the condition of his heart, and what does this teach us about our own motivations?
- Pastor Chris mentioned that Judas 'walked so close to Jesus, but yet he never fully surrendered to Jesus.' What's the difference between being near spiritual things and truly accepting Jesus?
- Why do you think people continue to 'sell out' for temporary things when they know the consequences? What makes sin so appealing in the moment?
- The sermon draws parallels between Judas, Esau, and Joseph's brothers all selling something precious. What are some modern examples of people trading away what matters most?
- How does the story of Hosea and Gomer illustrate God's love for us? What does it mean that God came looking for us when we had 'prostituted ourselves to the world'?
- Pastor Chris shared about missing his children's events while trying to serve God. How do we balance our service to God with our responsibilities to family?
- What does it mean that 'Jesus has never sold us out' and how should this impact our daily lives?
- The closing story about the wealthy man's will states 'whoever takes the son gets it all.' How does this apply to our relationship with Jesus and what we inherit as believers?

Life Application

This week, take inventory of what you're tempted to trade for temporary satisfaction - whether it's time with family, integrity, peace, or your relationship with God. Choose one area where you've been compromising and make a specific commitment to prioritize what truly matters. Remember that if you have Jesus, you have everything you need.

Key Takeaways

- Judas valued Jesus as worth only thirty pieces of silver - the price of a common slave - showing how little the Savior meant to him
- Throughout history, people have traded away what matters most for temporary gain - birthright for food, family for money, character for pleasure
- You can be near spiritual things and still have a lost heart; proximity to Jesus doesn't equal surrender to Jesus

- While people sell out and betray what's precious, Jesus never sells us out - instead He purchased us with His blood
- When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we inherit everything - eternal life, joy, peace, and all of God's promises

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for never selling us out, even when we have been unfaithful to You. Thank You for purchasing us with Your precious blood and making us heirs of all Your promises. Help us to see Your true worth and never trade You for anything this world offers. Give us strength to live faithfully for You, putting You first in every area of our lives. We are grateful that because we have the Son, we have it all. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.