

2009

Campbell Chapel Free
Will Baptist Church

Bob Bradley

A Matter of Choice

CAMPBELL CHAPEL FWBC - SERMON

A Matter of Choice

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Bob Bradley

Mark 14:10-26

- 10 And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them.*
- 11 And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him.*
- 12 And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover?*
- 13 And he sendeth forth two of his disciples, and saith unto them, Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him.*
- 14 And wheresoever he shall go say ye to the goodman of the house, The Master saith, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples?*
- 15 And he will show you a large upper room furnished and prepared: there make ready for us.*
- 16 And his disciples went forth, and came into the city, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover.*
- 17 And in the evening he cometh with the twelve.*
- 18 And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me.*
- 19 And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? and another said, Is it I?*
- 20 And he answered and said unto them, It is one of the twelve, that dippeth with me in the dish.*
- 21 The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born.*
- 22 And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body.*
- 23 And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it.*
- 24 And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.*
- 25 Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.*
- 26 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.*

The scripture that we are reading tonight is the last time we talked here from the book of Mark. We talked about what had happened in Bethany. Do you remember? Jesus had been anointed. They took the alabaster box of ointment or perfume and they broke the box and poured it on His head and so forth; anointing Him. As we read, as we study that we will find out how that some of the disciples were disturbed because they were looking at this as being a waste. They made the statement this should have been sold for three hundred pence and given to the poor. Jesus made the statement "You have the poor with you always, but me you will not have with you always."

The next thing we read is that Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve went unto the chief priests to betray Him unto them.

10 And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them.

As we have been studying in the last several months; the chief priests, the scribes, the elders, the Pharisees, the Sadducees; the whole gang of them had been looking for a way to take Jesus. They had been looking for a way to get Him. This is Passover season. Keep that in mind. This is Passover season and there are probably at least two million people in the city of Jerusalem. In recent days, even after He had raised Lazarus from the dead they were really conspiring. The persecution was really hot against Him. They were looking for some way to get Him and put Him to death without disturbing the people; or without disrupting the Passover. So that they would not make themselves look bad in the eyes of all those people that were around there.

Judas—I don't know. I thought many times about Judas. I do know some things about Judas that we are going to talk about tonight. But Judas was a man that had been with the Lord for three years or so. He was a fellow that Jesus had called. He was a fellow that had seen Jesus walk on water. He's a fellow that had been present—maybe not in the room right where He was at—but he was in the vicinity when Jesus raised some folks that had been dead. He knew Jesus had great and awesome power because he saw the things that He did. He saw all that Jesus did, but it had no effect on Judas whatsoever. He saw what the Lord was doing. He saw how great that He was. He saw the great crowd that He had. But it did not have any effect on him whatsoever.

You see the other eleven, we can read about them and there is no doubt that they were touched. They realized who Jesus was. He was the Messiah. He was the Son of Almighty God. They wanted to follow Him and they did follow Him. However, here is Judas.

As I thought today, there are so many folks like Judas. We know that Judas was a thief. The Bible says that. Don't we? We know that. We know that he was a thief. We know some things about him, but he is just like a lot of folks today that are exposed to the truth, to the teaching, to the preaching of Almighty God's Word. They see people get saved. They see God do great things. They see God do some marvelous miracles. But yet it has no effect on them in changing their lives for the better. We live in a world full of people like that.

Many years ago when we were pasturing over in Kentucky, there was a gentleman that we knew. He went to church and he was exposed to the truth. He had good intentions. Some of them talked to him on Sunday night before he died. He had good intentions on making things right with the Lord. However, he was coming down 23 here coming home from work just a couple of days after he had been to church and he slipped out into eternity in a head-on collision. He had good intentions.

I don't think Judas ever intended on getting to where he got. What I mean by that is this. If Judas could back up and change things after Jesus had died; Judas would have done that. He would have done that. Judas here goes out and hangs himself. If we could talk to Judas today, do you know what Judas would

do? Judas would tell us “Hey, you had better repent. You had better live right. You had better do right. Don’t follow my example.” because of what he did.

Here he is. He was exposed to all these things. He was exposed to the truth. We know that he was greedy. We know that he was a thief. We know all those things about him, but two other things I want to say before we move on. Judas did not have to do what he did. Judas was just like you and I are. He was just human. Judas was someone who was exposed to the truth. He was just like any of the other eleven disciples that were here. He had the same opportunity to recognize and accept Jesus Christ as the Messiah as the other eleven did. He had the same opportunity. He had the same right. He had the same privileges to accept Jesus as his savior as these other folks did and as you and I do today. He had the same opportunities—the reason I say that is because I’ve heard people say “Well, Judas couldn’t help himself.”

Don’t ever believe that. Don’t ever believe statements like that. Judas chose to do what he done. Judas chose with his eyes wide open, seeing the evidence, seeing who Jesus was—but what he said was “Hey, that’s not for me. That’s not for me. I don’t want to go that other route. I don’t want to do that. He didn’t. He goes unto the chief priests to betray him unto them.

10 And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them.

Here is what he does. He sees what happens here and no doubt when you look at what all happens here; Judas is the one that gets upset because of the perfume that was poured on Jesus and that anointed Jesus. There is no doubt in my mind that he’s the one that started the racket that it should have been sold. That money would have gone into the treasury. He took care of money. So that would have been more money that Judas would have been able to help himself to. There is no doubt Judas was the one that started that racket.

The chief priests had been looking for someone and some way they could get Jesus. They wanted to get rid of Him without causing a big ruckus here and without getting a black eye.

Jesus did a lot of good. The Bible says that He went about doing good. There are many lives that He had touched. They knew that. He caused them a lot of problems. Jesus was revealing unto the people how wicked and how sinful that the chief priests, scribes and the elders really were because of what He was doing.

11 And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him.

Judas goes unto them and says, “I’m one of the twelve. I’m one of His disciples. I know you guys are trying to get Him and I know where He is at and where He goes. I know what His habits are. I know where He goes when He is alone. I know where He takes us to when He is all alone.”

I want you to think about something tonight. Jesus Christ knew who Judas was all along. As he had done all that he did; Jesus Christ knew exactly who Judas was and He knew what Judas was going to do. But do you know what that did not do? That did not change how that Jesus dealt with Judas.

Many times people today will *abuse* us. (We will use that word) They might say mean things to us. They may not do something that we want them to do. Therefore, we walk around holding grudges, or we get mad. We withdraw ourselves from certain people. That is not the attitude of a Christian. Jesus here is dealing with Judas out of love even though that He knows that Judas was going to be the one that is going to lead the crowd down in the garden to get Him. He still yet dealt with him in love.

11 And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him.

When you read that in some of the translations, do you know what it will tell you? It will tell you that they may not have laughed out loud, but it tells us that they were happy on the inside. In other words they may not have physically laughed. They may not have physically smiled, but when they heard Judas say I know where He is at. I'll lead you to Him. I know where He goes. However, when they heard that, on the inside, it made them so happy. It made them so happy.

I thought today, how sad that is. When people betray someone to somebody else; they are happy about it. There is something wrong there somewhere. Isn't there? They are really wrong when that happens.

This is what happens.

11 And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him.

Do you know what they agreed? We know when we read the other accounts of the story; we know that Judas and the chief priests agreed for thirty pieces of silver. They agreed for thirty pieces of silver here. Judas is going to betray; Judas is going to lead the chief priests, scribes, elders and soldiers to where Jesus is at. When they make the deal, Judas starts trying to figure out: "When is the best time to do this? How can I do this here? Where can I bring them to where Jesus is at when there is the least amount of people around? Where can I bring them to where He is at where they are not going to be exposed or get a black eye?" That is what he starts doing. He starts rolling around in his mind then "How can I get the chief priests, scribes, elders, soldiers and all of them to where Jesus is ate without causing a big ruckus?"

Keep this in mind.

This is a fellow who has been with Him, has at with Him, has watched Him do all kinds of things, stayed with Him day in and day out, week in and week out; but yet now he is betraying Him.

Did you ever have anybody to betray you? They honestly and sincerely just absolutely sell you out. On one hand they tell you how much they love you, how much they care about you, how much they appreciate your friendship; but on the other hand do something absolutely contrary to that when you are not around. I don't care who you are, I don't care how spiritual you are; that hurts.

We have been thinking some things that we may get into in a week or two, three, four, five or six; there are many people in our churches today who are hurting. They are hurting one way or the other. Either

they have hurt someone, or they have been hurt by someone. We may look at some things somewhere down the road. I don't know. We have been rolling some things around in our mind. But there is a lot of hurt even among Christian people. There is hurt because of death. There is hurt because of loss of friendship and many different things that we will talk about later maybe.

Keep this in your mind.

Judas is a fellow that has no doubt; we know that he has called Him Lord and called Him Master and different things. We understand that. However, here he is now selling Him out. He is absolutely betraying Him.

That is actually what it means. The word "betray" or "betrayal" means "to sell Him down the river" is how it was written in the Greek. That is exactly what Judas was doing here.

12 And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover?

This is the last Passover. Remember what Passover was. Passover—we studied about a few weeks ago in our Sunday school—Passover was the time that the Jews celebrated. It was a very Holy time for them. We call them Holidays, but they were Holy Days for them. It was a time where they remembered, a time that they reflected back on what God did for them when they were in the land of Egypt. When the death angel came to the land on that particular night all those where they had put the blood on the door posts and over the door so when the destroyer came to the land then they were passed over. This is what this Holy Day or Holiday was all about.

Here they are in Jerusalem. There are people everywhere. They are here to celebrate the Passover. They are here to remember what God did for them and how that He had spared them and how that He had saved them from death. There are many good things that we can learn from that in life. They were saved by the blood. They were saved because an innocent lamb died in Egypt, an innocent lamb without spot or blemish had to die in Egypt. He had to die in Egypt. They killed him and they took the blood and they put it on their door posts. Didn't they? Because of that blood, because an innocent lamb died and the blood was there; then when the destroyer/death angel came to the land then they were saved. They were saved. They did not have to die. Why? It was because of the blood. This was the Holy Day or Holiday they were celebrating here.

Everyday ought to be a day like that for you and me. Every day ought to be a day that when we get out of bed and open our eyes in the morning; we should remember that we were once lost and doomed and damned and on our way to a lake of fire. Had it not been for His blood when He shed it, on the day we received that then we would be lost, doomed and damned and a lot of us would be in a lake of fire tonight. We would be lost and forever doomed, if it wasn't for the blood.

That is what they are celebrating here. Jesus is going to fulfill the Passover. It says here "the first day of unleavened bread." Their day started at six o'clock in the evening. What we are looking at here, this is the first day of unleavened bread here (if my understanding is correct) we are talking Thursday

afternoon or somewhere in that vicinity. There are different ways that you can look at that. That really doesn't matter necessarily. We know that He is going to die on Passover. We understand that.

The first day of unleavened bread; do you remember why they remembered that? Do you remember when they were getting ready to leave Egypt? They were told not to put any leaven in their bread. We talked about how that represented sin and so forth. But it also it didn't have time to rise because they left there in haste. They left there. Not only that, but the Passover; they would roast a lamb. They had unleavened bread. They also had bitter herbs that they would eat. The bitter herbs would remind them when they would eat them on Passover and through the feast days; it would remind them of the servitude or slavery in Egypt under Pharaoh. This meant something to them. They were to put all the leaven out of their houses.

Before Passover started they had a little thing that they did with children. The father of the home would hide yeast or leaven in different places of the house and the kids were to go through and search everything and go through everything to find the leaven to get it out of the house. No doubt, many still do that today. They were trying to clean themselves up to remember a very special time.

12 And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover?

The killed the Passover and they roasted it with fire. Do you remember that? That's what they did. Wasn't it?

12 And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover?

So the question was; "Where do you want us to go and prepare to eat the Passover?"

13 And he sendeth forth two of his disciples, and saith unto them, Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him.

They ask a question. "Where do you want us to go and prepare to eat the Passover?" He says, "This is what I want you to do. I want you to go into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him." That doesn't make a lot of sense. Does it? In a lot of different ways that doesn't make a lot of sense. Especially during this time in that part of the world; men didn't carry water, women did. This guy carrying a pitcher of water was going to stick out like a sore thumb. It was going to be someone that they were going to be able to see. Here comes a man carrying a pitcher of water. Do you know what they are going to automatically know? This is the guy that we need to go talk to. This is guy that our Lord is sending us to. Again, when God wants us to know something; He will tell us. When I live in the will of God, when I am living as I should be living; I'm not talking about living in sin, living a distant life—I'm not talking about that—but when we live as we should live, study His Word, seek His face, be obedient to His Word then God speaks unto His people. He directs us. Again, the directions may not make a lot of sense to us, but it always works. When the directions come from Him, then we need to follow Him.

13 And he sendeth forth two of his disciples, and saith unto them, Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him.

14 And wheresoever he shall go say ye to the goodman of the house, The Master saith, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples?

15 And he will show you a large upper room furnished and prepared: there make ready for us.

He says; you go into town and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. You follow him. You get there and you ask the goodman of the house this is what the master says. Where is your guest room at? You are going to find that it is going to be furnished. It is going to be ready.

Probably, there is no doubt in mind when you look at some of these things; it is incredible. I know that Jesus was God and I understand that. I also know that He felt pain, sorrow, and grief just like you and I do. He was just going to die in a matter of hours. One of His closest friends is going to betray Him, but yet He is still yet concerned about the other disciples to eat the Passover and remember this special time. Not only that but He is going to teach them some things here that is very important. You are going to find is already furnished and prepared. There are some things that they would have to do. They have to prepare their herbs and different stuff. No doubt, the lamb had already been killed probably at this time that they were going to eat because they would have roasted it and so forth. There are some different thoughts about that and we make talk about that in a minute. There are different things that they went through.

If you ever get time, there is a fellow by the name Zola Levitt. He's on TV from time to time and he has written some books about the seven feasts that the children of Israel observed. If you ever get time, or you run into some of his books somewhere; he's books on the Passover, Unleavened Bread, Trumpets and many others. Pick up some of his books because he's got some great reading on some of these subjects that brings much to light when we look at Passover, Pentecost, unleavened bread, and others that we otherwise miss sometimes. We don't get the full understanding of it.

The Seven Feasts of Israel, by *Zola Levitt*: Great Impressions Printing; January 01, 2001: ISBN – 10: B000NTIBU4 | ISBN – 13: N/A. <http://www.levitt.com/>

16 And his disciples went forth, and came into the city, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover.

17 And in the evening he cometh with the twelve.

18 And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me.

Here is what they are doing. They have come in evening time. That is what it is talking about here. They have come. They are reclining. They don't sit at tables like we do. They sort of lay down on the floor on a rug or carpet. They reclined on pillows in a circle. They would have their food in the middle of them. That's what they were doing here.

As they were doing this here, Jesus said:

18 And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me.

“One of you which eateth with me shall betray me.”

I want you to think about something. When you go to sit down and eat with somebody, if you go out to eat, you go to their home, or they come to your home; eating and breaking bread is a time of fellowship. It is a time usually when friends sit down together and enjoy one another. Enjoy each other's company. The most people that you eat with are your closest friends. If you are going to eat with somebody other than your immediate family it is going to be somebody that is close to you. You may eat occasionally with other people, but those that are closest to you are the ones you spend a lot of time eating with. You don't expect someone who is a close friend to sell you out. You don't expect someone that has done and saw and participated in some things that Judas has done; you don't think someone that is reclining around the table with you is going to betray you. Do you? You just don't think that is going to happen. However, it did here with Judas.

Again, I was thinking about Jesus and how that this must have broken His heart. When he is sitting here eating and reclining; Jesus knows He is going to die in a matter of hours. Here He is and He says: “Verily I say unto you, One of which eateth with me shall betray me.”

Psalm 41

9 Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.

Jesus considered Judas as a friend. Didn't He? It says He did. He knew about him. He knew what he was going to do, but yet Jesus Christ still loved him. He still yet loved him. He loved him until he was gone. Just because Judas betrayed Him did not stop Jesus from loving Him. Truth?

Today, just because we sin today and just because we may betray somebody or someone close to us; it does not mean that Jesus Christ doesn't love us. It doesn't mean that Jesus Christ wouldn't forgive us. Does it? People may never forgive us.

there is no doubt in my mind that there are things I've done in my lifetime and probably all of us sitting here tonight; you have probably done things that somebody somewhere along the way has never forgiven you for. Whatever it may have been, you may not have known anything about it. You might not ever know anything about it. But here's the thing. Jesus Christ will forgive us. People may not forgive us. People may not forget it. But Jesus Christ will forgive us if we just ask Him to. There is a big message in that for husbands and wives, for mommies and daddies with children. Raising kids and being married today and living on planet earth today; there are all kinds of issues. There are all kinds of issues. I don't care how close you think you are living to God; you are not perfect.

There are times in our lives as men, women, mommies, daddies, children, or grandchildren; there are times on our life that we are not all that we should be. There are times in our life that we do mess up. There are times in our life that we step across the line. There are times in our life that we intrude in areas that we have no business being into. There are times that we do offend people. There are times that we do betray people. There are times that people are very close to us and for whatever reason, we do things that we shouldn't do and we betray people.

Let's remember something.

The ultimate goal for me and for you is to go to heaven. Jesus Christ will do everything He can to take us there. We are not perfect. We have issues and we have problems. All of us those have those things. I'm not talking about going out here and living in sin every day. I'm not talking about those things. We do mess up from time to time. We do walk into things that we don't see what we are getting into until we are already there. Even though we do things that we should not do sometimes; God will forgive us if we just ask Him to.

19 And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? and another said, Is it I?

When you read that, it tells you this. When Jesus said "One of you guys are going to betray me." The disciples that were sitting around begin to say to each other, "Is it I?" Another would say "Is it I?" There is no doubt in my mind as it went around through here and all the disciples said that; there is no doubt in my mind that Judas also did. But he knew that he was guilty.

20 And he answered and said unto them, It is one of the twelve, that dippeth with me in the dish.

They had their herbs and different things that they ate and they would take their unleavened bread and dip it in a dish; like we do with chips and salsa, today. It is in some way similar to that. They would have a bowl of their different stuff; herbs and they would take their bread and dip it in there. They would all eat out of the same dish. This is how friends did it. This is how people who were close together ate. They just did this.

When we were home, we went out to the well and drawled our water and brought it inside and we just had a bucket of water that sat in the house and we had a dipper there. We didn't have glasses that we drank out of but we had a dipper there and everybody drank out of the same thing. You went and wanted a drink of water. You got the dipper and got a drink then hung it back upon the wall. That's how families did that. The neighbors down the road didn't come up there and use our dipper. However, the people in our own family, the people that were close; we did that.

That is what this was showing here. How close that they were and how that they did things.

20 And he answered and said unto them, It is one of the twelve, that dippeth with me in the dish.

21 The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born.

Jesus said here “The Son of man indeed goeth...” In other words, He is saying here “I’m going to die.” The scriptures tell how the Son of man is going to die and what’s going to happen. He says, “I’m going to go that route.” That’s already been predetermined. That’s already forever settled in heaven. That cannot be changed. Jesus said, “I’m going to go that route.” He says, “...but woe unto him by whom the Son of man is betrayed!” Woe is a good word. Even though Judas had saw all that Jesus had done, all that had happened; something had taken place that the love of Almighty God could not even change. “Woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed!” Do you know what He is saying here? All the love that I have for him could not and did not change what he is about to do here. Do you know why it couldn’t? It is because Judas did not want to change. He chose to do what he did.

The love of God and the grace of Almighty God can save anybody. It will save the whole world; the power is there. The desire is there. The want to is there. That is all there. No one will ever get saved until they choose to make things right with the Lord. “God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son...” all of the love of all of heaven; the greatest gift that God could ever give; He has given that, but that will never change your life until you accept that. Truth?

That is what happened to Judas here.

21 The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born.

I want you to think about that just for a moment. Judas probably had some times in life that had been good for him. There had been some times that he had enjoyed himself.

I was thinking today, I’ve had a lot of fun in life. I enjoy living. I enjoy doing a lot of different things. I just enjoy being alive. However, I was thinking how awful it would be for someone to live all their lives and enjoy living and enjoy family and friends and all that; but He says here the individual that is going to betray me, it would have been had he never been born.

Judas, it would have been better for you to not experience playing as a child and doing all the things you did with your parents and all the things you enjoyed in life; it would have been better Judas if you had never been born. You are doing what you are doing. You are betraying me. You are selling me out. Judas it would have been better for you if you had never been born. Just to think about that; to go through life to enjoy all that you enjoy here but to end up dying lost. It would have been if you had never been born.

You might say preacher that is a mean thing to say. It would have been if you would have never been born as far as you are concerned than to die lost. Take all the things that you have enjoyed in life and put them over here in a big pile and compare that to eternity in a lake of fire; it would have been better if you would have never been born.

God loves us; Jesus died for us. He is preparing a place for us; for all those who are saved and for all those who wants to go to heaven. However there is another place out there. It is called a lake fire and people that will not and do not accept Him as their savior; that is where they are going. I promise you

all the enjoyment that you may have in this life; if you end up dying lost it will mean absolutely nothing to you compared to all the misery that you are going to be going through.

You need to make things right with God tonight. You need to make things right with the Lord. He loves you. He cares about you. He went to the cross, suffered, bled and died; just for me and just for you. He loves you.

Come and make things right with the Lord while God is calling. He loves you friend. It is not His will that you die lost. It is not his will that you slip out of this world unprepared to meet God. It is God's will that you be saved tonight.

Come—