



**Community Bible Experience: New Testament
A Misguided Radical: Judas (Matthew 26:1-16)
By Pastor David Hillis, 19 February 2017**

BIG IDEA: Because God's wisdom is often contrary to our own, we can miss the voice of God when the only voices around us are those saying what we want to hear.

In most areas of life, the more we listen *exclusively* to people who believe like us, the easier it is to become misguided.

JUDAS' BACKGROUND (Matthew 26:3-4, 6-16; Matthew 10:2-8; John 12:4-6)

WHAT MADE JUDAS A MISGUIDED RADICAL?

1. Anger & Disillusionment

- Many of the Jews, and likely Judas, let political views and feelings of discrimination bring them to a place where they were consumed with feelings of anger and revenge. We continue to see, even today, how people are misguided by anger and disillusionment all the time.

2. Assuming "might makes right" (Matthew 27:3-5)

- There have been many Christian leaders throughout the centuries who have made the case that Judas never wanted or intended for Jesus to die, which may be why he quickly repented for what he had done and tried to give the money back.
- We, too, are misguided when we think that the answers to what we believe is wrong around us is to use force or manipulation.

3. Personal interests & greed (Matthew 26:14-15; 1 Timothy 6:10)

- The last, and most clear, thing from Scripture that turned Judas into a misguided radical was his own greed.
- The Bible says the love of money is at the root of all kinds of evil.

WHAT KIND OF RADICAL WILL YOU BE? (Matthew 16:24)

- The question Jesus poses to us has never been whether you should be radical or not with your faith, but rather if you are truly guided and directed by God.
- Those who are guided by the Spirit give fully, love unconditionally, and forgive repeatedly.

NEXT STEP:

Is there an area of your life where you are too convinced or stubborn in your own way of thinking to not listen to others fully? What will you do starting this week to change that?

FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

3. Reread the account of Judas's life, Matthew 26-27. In what ways does your life and experience match his? What can you take away and learn from his experience?
4. 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 and 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 speak to discerning God's will and God's wisdom over our own. As you read these passages, how do they speak to you about how you determine what is right? What decisions you make? How might you approach some of the things most concerning you right now a little differently, with these verses in mind?
5. Read your fifth week's readings as part of the Community Bible Experience. As you read, find yourself in the story — how your life and experiences match what you are reading.
6. As you do your readings, consider these 5 questions (which will be the 5 questions everyone shares in their book clubs next week):
 1. What's something you noticed for the first time?
 2. What questions did you have?
 3. Was there anything that bothered you?
 4. What did you learn about loving God?
 5. What did you learn about loving others?