There are three signs of a betrayer. The first one is when he speaks, he speaks lies; the second one is that when he makes a promise, he breaks it, and the third one is that when he is trusted, he betrays his trust. When you disappoint a person’s trust, hope, or expectations, when you fail to keep or honour a promise, principle, cherished memory, when you violate a person's trust or confidence, or a moral standard, you become a betrayer. A betrayal from a loved one, Church family, a friend, a coworker, a betrayal of trust, a betrayal of one's principles is painful.

A betrayal from those you sit at the table with, a betrayal from those you fellowship with is brutal. Let me make this statement to you about a betrayal. It is better to have an enemy who honestly says they hate you than to have a close friend betray you. It is better to have someone look you in the face and tell you they hate you than someone who spreads bad things or untrue things about you. “If you stab the body it heals, but if you injure the heart the wound lasts a lifetime.” The closer you are to someone, the deeper the stab is if that person betrays you.

Has anyone ever heard of being betrayed by someone that you trust or love? Has anyone ever been betrayed by someone you thought was a close friend that suddenly turned their back on you? Has anyone ever learned that the source of gossip or anonymous attacks that have been coming against them were coming from someone close to you? Have you ever been betrayed? Maybe it was a friend that betrayed you by failing to keep confidential information or by turning their back on you at a time when you needed them the most. Maybe your husband or your wife betrayed your trust in some way. Maybe it was a coworker that betrayed you by using unethical means to get that promotion you deserved or procured a new client that you had cultivated. Maybe it was a mentor or someone you had looked up to for a long time that betrayed you by behaving in a manner that completely contradicted everything they had stood for or valued in life. We have a lot to unpack this morning.

In order to betray someone, you would have had to first gain their trust. Trust and love come hand in hand, so it is very difficult and emotional when that love and trust is broken. Betraying someone means breaking a purpose intentionally. Betrayal kills the soil of life. It destroys trust and breeds contempt, which always kills relationships. There is always a lesson of a lifetime to learn in every betrayal. Betrayal kills. “Betrayal is never easy to handle and there is no right way to accept it.” –“Betrayal doesn’t only break your heart but also darkens your soul. If one is betrayed they will never forget the pain like a fog that forever lingers in the depths of your mind.” Betrayal is the exposing or deceiving of ones who formerly trusted you. However, you are never betrayed by your enemy. The one who betrays us is the one whom we trusted the most. You are betrayed by someone close to you. A person who knows everything about you is the only person who can betray you. To be betrayed is something that really hurts, and Judas Iscariot betrayed God with a kiss?

Let me give a little background of Judas. In Hebrew, the meaning of the name Judas is praise. The praised one. According to all four canonical gospels, Judas betrayed Jesus to the Sanhedrin in the Garden of Gethsemane by kissing him and addressing him as "rabbi" to reveal His identity to the crowd who had come to
arrest Him. Judas is one of the most universally known and scorned disciples of all time, but Jesus picked Judas. Jesus couldn't have made a mistake. Judas was perfect for his purpose. Judas was a follower of Jesus and a preacher of the gospel, but there was a double mindedness about him.

In the end, he abandoned the faith he once professed. Judas made a commitment to Jesus, and there is no reason to think he was anything but sincere in his faith. Like the rest of the disciples, he left everything to follow our Lord. Judas was actively involved in ministry, and he was given remarkable spiritual gifts. With Judas' own eyes, he saw the clearest evidence. With his own ears, he heard the finest teaching. With his own feet, he followed the greatest example. Nevertheless, this man still betrayed Jesus. It's possible to be in Christ and do crazy things; that's why we have to keep doing good; that's why we have to keep praying and fellowshipping with one another.

Judas was one of the 12 disciples whom Jesus himself had chosen, yet this close friend betrayed Jesus. Judas was Christ's servant. What if I call him his confidential servant? He was a partaker in apostolic ministry and the honour of miraculous gifts. Judas was more than this: he was a friend, a trusted friend. That little bag into which generous women cast their small contributions had been put into his hands, and very wisely too, for he had the financial vein. There are actually different betrayals of Jesus in the Bible.

1. From Judas Iscariot
2. From Simon Peter's actions during the events immediately leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus.
3. Then there is a betrayal from us when we sin.

Each time you sin, you are betraying Christ. That’s why we have to take sin seriously. God hates sin. God will never let sin go unpunished. God allowed His one and only Son to be crucified on the cross because He hates sin. Sin is sin. There is no little sin or big sin. Sin cost Christ’s life, and therefore we should hate sin. Our sin betrays God. When we sin, our sin sells out our Savior. It is because of our sinfulness that we all need the gospel. We have the need for repentance and the need to walk in obedience to God and His will. We betray Christ by betraying others. We betray our Lord and Saviour when we do not respond lovingly. We betray Him when we think negatively about our neighbours. We betray Him when we think more highly of ourselves and our needs than when we consider what He wants or needs from us. We betray Christ when we gossip. We betray Christ when we hurt each other's feelings. We betray Christ when we complain about the situation rather than when we praise and thank Him for everything, including the storms of life.

Scripture teaches us that there were so many Saints in Scripture who were betrayed. For example:

- Joseph was betrayed by his brothers (Genesis 37:12-36).
- Samson was betrayed by Delilah (Judges 16:18).
- The prophet Jeremiah was betrayed by those closest to him (Jeremiah 12:6).
- The Old Testament books of Kings and Chronicles provide countless examples of people who were murdered through betrayal. It is not uncommon for leaders to be betrayed.
- David was betrayed by Saul (1 Samuel 18:17) and a host of others.
- The apostle Paul was betrayed too.

There are so many more examples of betrayal that I could mention. However, the betrayal of Jesus, which is mentioned in the Gospel of Luke, that was beautifully read for us this morning, was different from any other betrayal. Jesus' betrayal was to fulfill the word that He had spoken. Jesus' betrayal was a fulfillment of what the Prophets were saying in the Old Testament. Psalm 41:9 is a prophecy about Judas’ betrayal of Jesus. “Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me.” This was a
fulfillment of prophecy, but it doesn't mean that it didn't hurt Jesus. He trusted His friend Judas. He is the one who called him to be a disciple; he walked with him, he ate with him, but Judas allowed the devil to use him to betray Christ. This is what this Lent season is all about. To be reminded to resist temptation. We are being reminded during this Lent season that sinning is wrong. Sin cost our Saviour's life.

The passage of Zechariah is another prophecy about how Jesus would be betrayed. “I told them, 'If you think it best, give me my pay, but if not, keep it.' So they paid me thirty pieces of silver." Zechariah probably prophesied this about 500 years before Jesus came. However, here is the heart of this message. You can't put a dollar value on the Creator of all things. You can't put a dollar value on someone who owns silver and gold, according to Haggai 2:8. "You can't put a dollar sign on the Lord our Saviour because how can you put a value on the one whose mercy never comes to an end? They are new every morning. God is sufficient for all of our needs. His love is steadfast love; it endures forever, His forgiveness is endless. All I am saying is, when your spouse walks out when your loved ones don't understand, when a friend betrays you, Jesus loves you to the end. God has been and is always extravagant, going overboard to love us. You can't put a price on Christ, but Judas did, and Christ was crucified for our sins.

Judas sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Thirty pieces of silver was the price of a slave. According to Exodus 21:32, “If the bull gores a male or female slave, the owner must pay thirty shekels of silver to the master of the slave, and the bull is to be stoned to death.” They were willing to give him 30 pieces of silver (which was the price of a slave). So he was willing to sell Jesus for the price of a slave, which is exactly the amount the Old Testament says that He would be sold for. Unwittingly, they fulfilled a prophecy that proves the validity and accuracy of the Old Testament. As Jesus said in Matthew 6:24, “You cannot serve both God and money.” Judas was also a slave of the religious leaders when he agreed to sell Jesus out for 30 pieces of silver.

Judas was one of the executives on Jesus' board. He was the one who dipped with Christ. The one who was close to Jesus betrayed Christ and ran away from the table, and it was over. When people do wrong things, they know that what they are doing is wrong. A guilty conscience led Judas to disappear. A friend betrayed Christ as prophesied, and this is the journey to the Golgotha, to the cross. There is no way he could have avoided this, it was written, and it had to be fulfilled. The early Church father Irenaeus wrote against the Gospel of Judas all the way back in the 2nd century. The so-called "Gospel of Judas" is not a Gospel at all; it does not contain "the good news" of Jesus Christ. It is rather a Gnostic book, a writing of the syncretistic religion of Gnosticism.

The story of Judas reminds us that nothing good can come from giving up on Jesus Christ. He is of supreme value, and following Him is worth any cost. No matter how much it costs, stay in Church, don't quit; nothing good can come from quitting. Remorse and guilt led Judas to commit suicide because he betrayed Christ. Judas never experienced the love and grace Christ came to provide. Peter, who also betrayed Christ that night, was restored and forgiven. He called Peter the devil. He called Judas his friend. After Jesus rose from the dead, He sent specifically for Peter so that He could show him, love.

Judas betrayed the Son of man with a kiss. Jesus could have destroyed him on the spot. He could have incinerated him on the spot, but He didn't. He submits to the betrayal in order that Scripture would be fulfilled. Do you remember what the psalmist said - didn't he? - that His own familiar friend would lift his heel against Him, and He would be betrayed in the house of His friends. So what happened to Judas? In the end, he abandoned the faith he once professed, and people don't name their sons Judas. They don't even name their dogs Judas, and this is the greatest illustration of:

1. Wasted opportunity, squandered privilege ever.
2. All sin is a betrayal of Christ.
3. The crowd was only available for the crown, not for the cross, and this story should remind us that nothing good can come from giving up on Jesus Christ. He is of supreme value, and following Him is worth any cost.

The good news out of all this darkness is that Christ was not alone when Judas betrayed him, and you are not alone when you get betrayed by your spouse, your children, your friends, your Church family, your coworkers, and those you trust. Christ was and will always be beside you.

Thanks be to God.

**Prayer For All People**

*God of Mercy,*
*You gave your Son to suffer the shame of the cross,*
*You sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost,*
*We confess that we have strayed from You.*
*And turned aside from your way.*
*We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained,*
*And great when we are small.*
*We have failed in love, neglected justice,*
*And ignored Your truth.*
*Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin.*
*Return us to paths of righteousness*
*Through Jesus Christ, our Saviour.*
*Almighty God, our Redeemer,*
*Redeemer of all who trust you,*
*In our weakness, we have failed.*
*To be your messengers of forgiveness and hope.*
*Help us this Lent Season, to examine ourselves,*
*And to repent from all our sins.*

**Offertory Prayer:**

*Heavenly Father, thank you for your one and only Son who became the first offering to you on behalf of our sins. We bring our offerings to you this morning as an appreciation of what you did on the cross. Through our giving, we tell a story about what transpired on that old rugged cross when we give. May you bless everything that has been given on this day. Father bless every giver, bless those who are not able to give. Amen.*

**Children’s Prayer:**

*Heavenly Father, You care so much about the little ones. Thank you for trusting us with these precious children. Help us to care for them just like how you care about us. Help us to guide them in a Godly manner. Draw us closer to the little ones who are depending on us for everything. Give all parents all the wisdom, strength, and guidance on how to raise these little ones. We thank you, Lord. Amen.*

**Benediction**

*As we have been forgiven by Christ, Let’s go and forgive others.*
*As we have been loved by Christ, Let’s go and love others.*
*As we have been blessed by His word, Let’s go and bless others.*
*Go in Peace!*
*Amen.*