

Spy Wednesday

the untold story of how Judas betrayed Jesus

By and Based on the Books of Robert J. Cormier (www.thefaithkit.org)

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The scene requires a table and a podium to be placed so that they partially face each other and partially face the audience. A group of men enter and take seats behind the table. There should be at least three men with one seated prominently in the center. There is a lantern lit to indicate that it is nighttime; and there are books spread across the table in order to hide the text of the dialog which follows.

A man is ushered in, and, with gestures, he is instructed to stand behind the podium. Here, unbeknownst to the audience, another copy of this play has been placed.

A man to the left or right of the person seated in the center of the table speaks: You have asked to speak to Caiaphas, the Chief Priest, so speak.

There is silence. Then this same man says again: Speak!

Judas: You have let it be known that you are interested in information about a certain Nazarene preacher. Perhaps I have the information you are interested in.

Caiaphas: What sort of information are you offering?

Judas: Information about his whereabouts, and his plans, and the times he prefers to be alone.

Caiaphas: How do you know so much about this man?

Judas: Is that important?

Caiaphas: You are Galilean are you not? Are you not one of his disciples?

A moment passes.

Judas: I AM Galilean; and I travel in his group.

Caiaphas: Then why do you want give us this information?

A moment passes.

Judas: This man is NO friend of our people. Many thought he would wake our people from their sleep at the feet of the Romans, but this is not true. If people continue to listen to him, we shall all be slaves of the Romans forever.

Caiaphas: So, what do want... that we be saved from slavery?

Judas: What do you offer?

Caiaphas: We can offer you ten pieces of silver.

Judas: Ten?! to help you escape from your problems with this man... I was thinking that a hundred silver pieces would be a bargain for you.

Caiaphas: If you care so much about our people, why do you not just give us the information you have?

Judas: (*with a touch of insincerity*) Excellency, I am just a humble servant of the Lord. But I spent many months learning about this man, learning the truth about him. And, during this time, I earned nothing for myself. I am asking for so little.

Caiaphas: Perhaps we might be able to pay you twenty.

Judas: (*with feigned respect*) But, you, Excellency, and others of the temple, you make a great deal of money every day—for the glory of God, of course. The Nazarene wants to change this. Surely it is worth more than twenty pieces of silver to remove this problem from your minds. Surely it is worth at least fifty.

Caiaphas: You would sell your teacher for fifty pieces of silver?

Judas: You would *buy* him?

Caiaphas: You are a cynical man, I think. You think that everything has its price.

Judas: In the end, Excellency, isn't this true?

Caiaphas: It is not true here; it is not true in the temple. You cannot buy the favor of God.

Judas: Of course not, Excellency, of course not. But, when the Romans came, didn't we do things that the Law never before allowed because now it would cost us too much?

Caiphas: You are trying to insult me?

Judas: Certainly not, Excellency. (*insincerely*) I am a humble man who knows nothing. But out of my eagerness to learn, please tell me: What principle is too holy never to be bent if there is enough to be gained? What truth is worth whatever we might lose?

A moment passes.

Caiaphas: You are a cynical man, indeed. We will pay thirty and no more—if what you can tell us is worth it.

Judas: You are a good and generous man, Excellency.

Caiaphas: What can you tell us?

Judas: I know that tomorrow night the Nazarene and his immediate circle will celebrate the Passover in the city. I know that afterwards they will go to the Mount of Olives in order to avoid the crowds. I myself can come and get you when they are there. I will kiss this Jesus so you will know for certain it is he.

Caiaphas: You will get your thirty pieces of silver. We will be waiting for you here tomorrow.

With this, Caiaphas and all but one of those with him depart. Judas remains where he stood. As it turns out one of Caiaphas' group has stayed behind. This second man now speaks: Why do you not go?

Judas: I did not know I was dismissed.

The second man: (*with obvious contempt*) Oh, you are dismissed.

Judas: Are you judging me?

The second man: You have sold a man you have often called a friend.

Judas: This “friend” will do our people harm.

The second man: This is what you care about, our people.

Judas: And if I also take care of myself... you, certainly, do the same.

The second man: Is money SO dear to you?

Judas: Money is dear to us all.

The second man: Was his kindness to you worth nothing?

A moment passes.

The second man: I said, was his kindness to you worth nothing?

Judas: (*with anger in his voice*) How kind was he to me? Who was I to him? Did he trust me with anything except their little money? Who was I to him?

The second man: You sadden me, young man, because I see in you the worst in me. You are upset because you don't get enough attention. You choose to drown your anger in money, in things of this world. And you are willing to move from one excuse to another in order to justify what you are doing. You are thinking only about yourself and, rather than face this, you pretend that you are noble, and then you say that you've been wronged and you are owed, and then you say that everybody does it. You are all excuses.

Judas: You have no right to judge me.

The second man: What is a “right” to you, young man? What is a “wrong”? You are all excuses. Does anything really matter to you—except what you want?

Judas: Who are you to judge me?

The second man: I am Nicodemus. I too am all excuses—but at least I admit it.

Nicodemus leaves.

Judas stands in silence for a short while, then he says: I am making NO excuses. I am not doing this for me. I'm not doing it for me. This Jesus must be stopped. He is the enemy of our people. I am not selling him. I am not betraying him. This is not about me. I am doing what is right. I am doing what anyone would do. I am making no excuses.

A moment passes and then Judas says angrily: To hell with them all.

Judas leaves.