

## Lent Course 2020 from Luke's Gospel

### Luke 22:47-62

#### Three Friends: Judas, Peter, Jesus

Is Judas the worst friend ever? Jesus is betrayed by a kiss - a sign of friendship turned into a gesture of treachery. A kiss was not the normal greeting among male friends - it was the special sign of the disciples - the "holy kiss". Jesus gives Judas a last chance to change his mind (v.48)

Judas had an impressive past. He had been with Jesus for three years. Like him, we can't rely on our past experiences as an indication of our current spiritual condition.

In the end, Judas decided to save his own skin.

Is Peter an even worse friend? He crumbles very quickly. He goes from swinging a sword to cowering in the space of a few hours. He seeks to save his own skin.

Both Peter and Judas were disappointed with Jesus. They unspoken expectations that he does not fulfil.

Do we love God, or do we love the things he does for us? Do I love God when he isn't making me happy? Do I love God when I think I've got it worse than a lot of others? It's easy to make big promises on a Sunday, and see them crumble at work on Monday or with friends on Thursday.

What Judas and Peter did next makes all the difference. Judas felt bad, but never asked for forgiveness. Peter repented.

Jesus is the best friend ever. One of Jesus' closest friends (Peter) denied even knowing him in order to save his own skin, but Jesus responded by giving up his life in order to save his cowardly friend.

Jesus knows the worst about us, and dies for us anyway.