“The Last Days: Judas’ Betrayal”
by
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What
A Narrative of the man who betrayed Jesus and the surrounding events.
Themes: Sin, Betrayal, Crucifixion, Last Supper, Easter, Passion Week

Who
Narrator 1
Narrator 2
Male or Female though one male and one female probably works best.

When
The days before Jesus’ crucifixion

Wear (Props)
Narrators can be perched on two stools with a music stand in front of them reading the script. They should be wearing neutral colors. All black. Black and white, etc. Just make it uniform between the two.

Why
John 12:4-6, Matthew 26:14-16, Matthew 27:1-5, Matthew 26:46-50

How
This can be done as a simple narrative with the two Narrators sitting stage right and left reading the script to tell the story. Have them lit, spotlighted or otherwise highlighted. The mood should be somber, sad, even uneasy. Maybe use a soundtrack which is just a low standup bass playing deep, full tones. Dress the stage between the Narrators with a well lit prop that represents Judas’ betrayal. Be creative. Some ideas: a painting of the last supper with Judas’ place erased, shadowed or otherwise altered. Maybe not a painting…12 figures sculpted or as a graphic all together and one broken…or just missing. An image associated with betrayal like a broken heart. Or light a bag, plate or otherwise focus on 30 pieces of silver. There are several artistic renditions of the betrayal. Choose one or create a collage of several.

Time
Approximately 4-6 minutes
Narrators enter and address the audience.

Narrator 1: On the darkest of nights a plot was thickening. And on this deepening night a certain character was being revealed. One that would for all earthly time reign in history as a character known for his turned heart, his thorough misunderstanding of God.


Narrator 1: Judas was with Jesus dining in Mary and Martha's home. He reclined at the table with him. Then Mary took a pint of an expensive perfume and poured it on Jesus' feet, wiping his feet...with her hair. Judas objected, disgusted saying...

Narrator 2: “Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? Why, it's worth a year's wages at least! What a waste. A waste!”

Narrator 1: Judas didn't say any of these things because he was in the least bit concerned about the poor. No. He said these things because he was a thief.

Narrator 2: As keeper of the money bag, Judas used it as his own personal banking vestibule helping himself to what was put into it.

Narrator 1: So as Judas sat at that last supper he sat with evil's darkness already solidly entangled with his being.

Narrator 2: Just hours before Judas had sought out the chief priests asking them:

Narrator 1: “What are you willing to give me if I finally give you what you want? If I deliver Jesus over to you? What will you give me?”

Narrator 2: “Thirty pieces of silver.”

Narrator 1: And with the sound of the promised riches tinkling in his ears Judas watched for an opportunity to hand over his Rabbi, his faithful friend. Until then, he returned to his side finding himself sharing a meal in an upper room.

Narrator 2: The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas to betray Jesus when Jesus spoke.

Narrator 1: “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.”

Narrator 2: The disciples looked at one another with surprise and something like horror. Betray him! Who would betray Jesus? Who would betray their
Rabbi, their friend? Certainly never one of those closest to him. One of those who sat in that very room.

Narrator 1: Judas said, “Surely you don’t mean me, Rabbi?”

Narrator 2: And Jesus answered, “You have said so.”

Narrator 1: Satan entered Judas. And Jesus, resigned to the fateful choices of his friend, spoke to Judas saying, “What you are about to do, do quickly.”

Narrator 2: Judas slinked out of the room returning to his conspirators on the sly. Into the night he stole, the sound of thirty pieces of promised silver jingling in his ears soon to be jingling in his pockets. The priests and elders had promised him that much. And he watched as around him a mob quickly assembled and he explained where to find Jesus. He knew where they might be going.

Narrator 2: “I have sinned! I have betrayed an innocent man! I have betrayed…my friend. I didn’t understand…anything. Why he lived the way he lived. Why he will die the way he will die. I didn’t understand him.”

Narrator 1: “What do we care? That’s your problem. Now, get out of our sight!”

Narrator 2: Judas had tried to wash his hands of it. He had tried to undo what he had done but it could not be undid.

Narrator 1: clink clink clink

Narrator 2: Unclenching his fist from around the bag of silver, Judas tossed it at their feet and in a frenzy fled.

Narrator 1: And the coins, they scattered.

Narrator 2: And the disciples, they scattered.

Narrator 1: And Judas was scattered and surrendered his life to an obliging tree.

Narrator 2: A life sold.

Narrator 1: A sad legacy now told, and for what?

Narrator 2: Thirty pieces of silver.
Both: Lord, have mercy.

Lights fade.