Being Close Isn’t Enough!

JUDAS >>> Remorseful But Not Repentant
Being Close Isn’t Enough!

- **Mark 14:10-11 (NIV)** (10) Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. (11) They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

- **Matthew 26:14-16 (NIV)** (14) Then one of the Twelve--the one called Judas Iscariot--went to the chief priests (15) and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty silver coins. (16) From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

- *Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the influential chief priests and offered to betray Jesus to them*
Being Close Isn’t Enough!

- Judas Is Forever Linked With His Betrayal
LESSON 1: In Our Relationship With Christ -- Being Close Isn’t Enough

- Judas Was One Of The Twelve
- A Member Of Jesus’ Hand-picked Disciples
- Judas Was Sitting In The Place Of Honor (John 13:23)
Being Close Isn’t Enough!

- Judas Was An Eyewitness Of Christ’s Mighty Works During His Earthly Ministry

- Judas Turns Out To Be A False-hearted Child Of The Devil  
  A Terrible Ending From Such A Great Beginning!
Being Close Isn’t Enough!

Lesson 2: Being In The Presence Of Greatness Does Not Guarantee Life Success

Knowledge, Gifts, Professing Christ, Privileges, Church Membership, Power Of Preaching, Praying And Talking About Religion Are All Useless Things If Our Hearts Are Not Converted.
Lesson 3: Sin Will Take You Farther Than You Want To Go – And It Never Delivers On It’s Promises

Judas Didn’t Want A Kingdom That Started At The Cross

He Wanted One That Started With A Crown

The Message Of Jesus: There Is No Crown Without A Cross
Being Close Isn’t Enough!

- He Gave Into The Call Of Sin, Self And Satan -- That Sin Took Him Much Further Than He Ever Wanted To Go
- He Opened Himself Up To Both Sin Rebellion & Unbelief He Ultimately He Came Under Satanic Control
- Sin Was The Fundamental Cause Of Judas’ Downfall.
- Judas Was Personally Responsible -- It Was He Who Denied And Betrayed Jesus
Why Would Judas Deny and Betray Jesus?

- #1 He Was Jealous — #2 He Was Ambitious — #3 He Was Greedy
- “The Love Of Money” Was The Cause Of This Judas’ Downfall
- Greed Is A Sin That Spreads Like Gangrene, Once It Takes Over It Can Lead Us To Every Kind Of Sin
J.C. RYLE SAYS… “Riches cause great danger on the souls of those who have them. The true Christian ought to be far more afraid of being rich than of being poor.”

Judas Had A Great Love In His Life -- It Was Not Christ It Was Money

He Really Didn’t Love The Lord -- He Loved The Lord’s Money
Being Close Isn’t Enough!

- Judas Lost Control Of His Life He Satisfied Himself In His Unbelief And In the End Came Under Satanic Control

- It is clear that Judas never had any spiritual interest in Jesus—he was attracted to Him because he expected Jesus to become a powerful religious and political leader. MacArthur Study Bible

- Sin -- Whether It Be Jealousy, Unbridled Ambition, Or Greed, Will Take You Farther Than You Want To Go – It Never Delivers It’s Promises
Lesson 4: In Order To Betray Jesus --- Judas Had To Literally Climb Over Every Obstacle That Jesus Put In His Way

(1 Cor 10:13 NIV) No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

The Chief Priests Did Not Come To Him-- He Went To Them

This Was A Pre-Meditated --- Ongoing --- Rejection Of Christ
Being Close Isn’t Enough!

- **Just As Judas Decided To Betray Jesus -- Jesus Decided That It Was Okay To Be “Betrayed**

- **Jesus Was Not Forced Onto Calvary’s Cross -- He Stepped Willingly Into God’s High Calling**

- **(John 13:18 NIV)** "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill the scripture: 'He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.'"
Lesson 5: God Will Give Us Over To Our Decisions

Judas—Rejected The Opportunity To Get Things Right In His Life

We Have A Free Will And God Gives Us Over To Our Decisions
Lesson 6: Remorse Without Repentance Leads Only To Despair

Judas said, "I Have Sinned." (Remorse) -- But There Was No Turning To God. (Repentance)

Sadly he did not seek the forgiveness of God. He did not cry out for mercy. He did not seek deliverance from the power of sin. Instead, he tried to fix it himself;
Being Close Isn’t Enough!

Judas Shows Us Just How Close A Person Can Get To Jesus And Not Be A True Christian. He saw Jesus walk on water. He saw Jesus raise the dead. He was there when Jesus opened the eyes of the blind. He sat with Jesus as the Last Supper and broke bread with Him. He knew Jesus was the Son of God and yet he never trusted Him as Savior. He betrayed Jesus with a kiss.

“Judas kissed the door to Heaven -- but died and went to Hell.”

- He Was So Close To Jesus, But So Far. Judas came so close to forgiveness BUT MISSED IT!
Lesson 7: 3 Things Required In Order To Experience God’s Forgiveness:

1) Acknowledgment Of Our Sin
2) A Sense Of Remorse For Our Sin Leading to Repentance
3) Acceptance Of The Forgiveness Offered Us, By Faith.

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV) (9) The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.