

MESSAGE NOTES



Series: The Bad Boys of Easter
Message: The Pretender
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: March 22nd, 2026

Judas' example should serve as a warning to all of us.

- 1. Don't buy the lie that says, "*I could never do that!*"**

"But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master."
Genesis 4:7 (NLT)

"¹⁴Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. ¹⁵ These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death."
James 1:14–15 (NLT)

- 2. When I give in to temptation, immediately admit it and go to God.**

"When a crime is not punished quickly, people feel it is safe to do wrong."
Ecclesiastes 8:11 (NLT)

- 3. Humbly choose to be accountable to others.**

"Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."
James 5:16 (NLT)

"¹² Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. ¹³ You must warn each other every day, while it is still "today," so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God."
Hebrews 3:12–13 (NLT)

- 4. Deliberately stay open, honest, and teachable to God - daily.**

"⁷ So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world."
James 4:7–8 (NLT)

TAKE HOME SHEET



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The following references in the New Testament give some of Judas' story:

John 6:70,71; John 12:4-6; Mark 14:10,11; Luke 22:3-6, and 22:47,48.

Judas had been dishonest along the way, stealing from the finances of Jesus and the other disciples. As he continued to do this, it became easier and ultimately grew into an entrenched habit and demand for more. After Jesus was arrested and sentenced to die, here is how Judas responded:

"³When Judas, who had betrayed him, realized that Jesus had been condemned to die, he was filled with remorse. So, he took the thirty pieces of silver back to the leading priests and the elders. ⁴"I have sinned," he declared, "for I have betrayed an innocent man."

"What do we care?" they retorted. "That's your problem."

⁵ Then Judas threw the silver coins down in the Temple and went out and hanged himself."
Matthew 27:3-5 (NLT)

Look back over the message notes, and as you do, ask God to show you any area in your life that is either sinful in His eyes or flirting with temptation.

Doing something about it right now is imperative and hopeful. Delaying will only cause pain to me and others.

Here is the important question to ask now: *"In light of what I know, what will I do?"*

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:
NLT- New Living Translation