

KNOX SUMMER SERIES
BAD APPLES OF THE BIBLE

JUDAS ISCARIOT

JUDAS ISCARIOT WAS ONE OF THE 12 APOSTLES OF JESUS CHRIST. HE INFAMOUSLY BETRAYED JESUS FOR 30 PIECES OF SILVER, WHICH LEAD TO HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS. TODAY, “JUDAS” IS VIRTUALLY SYNONYMOUS FOR “TRAITOR.”

AMONG THE DISCIPLES, JUDAS WAS THE OFFICIAL TREASURER, AND HE WAS APPARENTLY PRETTY SHADY EVEN BEFORE HE MADE HIS BIG DEBUT AS THE WORST PERSON IN HISTORY. (HE STOLE MONEY.) DESPITE THAT, JUDAS WAS A FAIRLY CONFLICTED PERSON. HE TRIED TO RETURN THE 30 PIECES OF SILVER, AND ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW, HE HANGED HIMSELF NOT LONG AFTER BETRAYING JESUS.

PEOPLE IN ANCIENT ISRAEL DIDN'T HAVE LAST NAMES LIKE WE DO. IN THE BIBLE, THE “LAST NAMES” YOU SEE ARE EPITHETS—OR DESCRIPTIONS—WHICH GENERALLY REFER TO WHERE SOMEONE COMES FROM, A TITLE, THEIR FATHER'S NAME, OR A GROUP THEY'RE IDENTIFIED WITH. UNFORTUNATELY, SCHOLARS AREN'T TOTALLY SURE WHAT ISCARIOT REFERS TO.

MOST SCHOLARS BELIEVE ISCARIOT MEANS THAT JUDAS CAME FROM THE TOWN OF KERIOTH, WHICH COULD MAKE HIM THE ONLY DISCIPLE FROM JUDEA (THE OTHERS WERE FROM GALILEE). BUT THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF OTHER THEORIES, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT IDENTIFIES HIM WITH THE SICARII—A GROUP OF JEWISH REBELS WHO WERE TRAINED AS ASSASSINS.

~from <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jonah-biblical-figure>

