



Jeff Sweeten

*Thus Saith the Lord*  
is presented by the

## **Park Heights Church of Christ**

1300 E. Boynton St.  
Hamilton  
254-386-3953

### **Schedule of Services**

#### **SUNDAY**

9:30 a.m. Bible Class  
10:25 a.m. Morning Worship  
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

#### **WEDNESDAY**

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Please call or email if you  
have a question or comment  
254-386-3953

jeffdsweeten@gmail.com or  
chelejones24@yahoo.com

Website:  
[www.parkheightscoc.com](http://www.parkheightscoc.com)

# *Thus Saith the Lord*

## **JUDAS**

By Jeff Sweeten

It's rare to see an article on Judas. It's not like we'd name a child after him. Still, he teaches us some very valuable lessons.

The first might be that your influence can last forever. It's interesting, however, that if I were to say "Paul," would killing Christians come to mind or would you picture the most prolific author of the inspired New Testament? Very few would leave Paul remembering that terrible moment when he stood over the bloodied body of Stephen, consenting to his death. This was a tragic error in Paul's young life, but it is not the last we would hear from him. And, how about Peter? Does his awe-inspiring sermon, preached at Pentecost, ring a bell, or is it the crowing of the rooster and his denial of Christ? Funny how the context of his repentance and return to righteousness is usually how we remember him.

Judas, on the other hand, is always remembered in infamy, from Michelangelo's "Last Supper" (where he's painted in a most sinister pose) to the modern-day slang term for a "traitor." In fact, the little hole in the door of a maximum-security prison cell is called a "Judas hole." Judas' character is predicated upon one act of treachery! You, too, will leave a lasting impression on others for good or bad.

Second, the love of money can ruin you. Notice, I said the love of money. Money is a tool. It can be used for good or evil; and having it, or lots of it, isn't intrinsically wrong. Even a poor man can sin because of the love of money. That was Judas. He used to take a little here and there from the bag and, it is apparent from John 12:6, he was a thief. The proverb states: "**Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from death**" (Proverbs 11:4). When it comes to the priorities of life, Judas failed to see that Jesus' kingdom was not of this world (John 18:36). Because of this failure, the love of money led Judas to open the door of his heart to Satan and be forever the embodiment of treachery.

Finally, Judas teaches us that you can always repent. "Wait a minute," you say. "Judas didn't repent." You are right, he didn't; but not because he couldn't have. What is the real distinction between the mistake of Paul or Peter and that of Judas? Their response! Peter sinned no less in denying Christ and Paul in consenting to Stephen's death. Judas, however, gave up on God, on humanity and, especially, on himself. He not only turned away from the open door of forgiveness, he slammed it closed in his wake.

Nothing you have done, or ever will do, can separate you from God's forgiveness **IF** you are willing to repent and turn back to the Father (Isaiah 59:1-2). Paul did. Peter did. Judas did not ... and that is the difference in how they are remembered.