

# Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

---

20/06/2021 -- Disciples in Question 9 – Judas (not Iscariot)

## Happy Father's Day



Next week is our zoom

“Church & Chat”

A short church reflection with a hymn, reading, (children’s activity), prayer, “thought for the week” and then a time to chat. If you need help to join please ask any deacon

Join us next week at 10 am:

Topic: Church and Chat

Time: This is a recurring meeting

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75124173520?pwd=QVB4WUx6QXg3Y3hQc1NQYkxINmozZz09>

Meeting ID: 751 2417 3520

Passcode: Bethel2021

All lockdown services can be found at: [www.mbccs.co.uk](http://www.mbccs.co.uk)

Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. **Exodus 20:12**

### **Good morning and welcome to this week's thoughts.**

Our 1<sup>st</sup> hymn for today is: "How deep the Father's love for us"

[How deep the Father's love Fernando Ortega - YouTube](#)

How deep the Father's love for us,  
How vast beyond all measure,  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss –  
The Father turns His face away,  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,  
My sin upon His shoulders;  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life –  
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,  
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer;  
But this I know with all my heart –  
His wounds have paid my ransom.

**The reading is John 14:19-24** [John 14:19-24 NIVUK - Before long, the world will not see me - Bible Gateway](#)



## Fathers day

Happy Fathers day everyone. I hope all you dads have been looked after this morning and even received a treat.

As we continue through our look at the disciples, I wondered if any of the 12 apostles were fathers and although there is no mention that any of them were in the bible, there is no suggestion that they were not. So that was a dead end for this weeks thoughts. However, following from our last weeks thoughts, Judas (not iscariot) questioned Jesus as Philip had earlier and Jesus replied saying "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them".

One of the most known references in the bible to our dads here on earth, is found in the ten comandments:

*Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12*

So today we are seeing what we can learn from Judas (not iscariot). This is how John refers to him however, this Judas is referred to with three names:

- Judas – not iscariot (John 14:22)
- Lebbaeus (Matthew 10:3)
- Son of Thaddeus (Matthew 10:3)

Lebbaeus and Thaddeus both have meanings of mothers child and childlike, so we can assume that this Judas was amongst if not the yungest of the disciples.

The New Testament records only one incident involving Judas Lebbaeus Thaddaeus found in John 14:19-24. In this text Jesus has been imparting that He will soon leave his disciples to return to be with the Father in Heaven. Jesus was wanting to assure them that he will not be leaving them alone, but he would leave them with another comforter, the Holy Spirit.

In the first part of todays reading we read:

*<sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.'*

*<sup>22</sup> Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, 'But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?'*

Judas (not Iscariot), like Thomas and Philip before him did not understand why Jesus was manifesting himself primarily through this rag-tag group of disciples.

Jesus' answer to Judas is found beginning in verse twenty-three.

*<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, 'Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup> Anyone who does not love*

*me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.*

Jesus probably did not answer Judas as he probably wanted it answered. But he points out that love and obedience are all that we need to know. Anyone who truly loves “Jesus” will keep his word. Judas’ question reminds us that there are many things about the difficulties of living for Jesus that we do not know and can not know. But that is not important. What is important is that we love Christ and keep His word.

Judas (not iscariot), is a reminder that what we know is important, but acting on our knowledge what we do is even more important!

There is a lovely true story I read:

“An elderly preacher was rebuked by one of his deacons one Sunday morning before the service. “Pastor,” said the man, “something must be wrong with your preaching and your work. There’s been only one person added to the church in a whole year, and he’s just a boy sent along by his father.”

The minister listened, his eyes moistening and his thin hand trembling. “I feel it all,” he replied, “but God knows I’ve tried to do my duty.”

On that day the minister’s heart was heavy as he stood before his flock. As he finished the message, he felt a strong inclination to resign. After everyone else had left, that one boy came to him and asked, “Do you think if I worked hard for an education, I could become a preacher—perhaps a missionary?”

Again tears welled up in the minister’s eyes. “Ah, this heals the ache I feel,” he said. “Robert, I see the Divine hand now. May God bless you, my boy. Yes, I think you will become a preacher.”

Many years later an aged missionary returned to London from Africa. His name was spoken with reverence. Nobles invited him to their homes. He had added many souls to the church of Jesus Christ, reaching even some of Africa’s most savage chiefs. His name was Robert Moffat, the same Robert who years before had spoken to the pastor that Sunday morning in the old Scottish kirk.

If that father of Robert Moffatt hadnt sent him to church and if that preacher had not belived that the little boy could become a great preacher, all those people would never have known of Gods love.

We do not need to be great and known to the world, we just need to honour our father and mother and act on the love that we receive from Christ.



Our next hymn is “Father we love you” [Glorify Thy Name \(Father, we love you...\) - YouTube](#)

Father, we love You,  
we worship and adore You,  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.  
Glorify Thy name, glorify Thy name,  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

Jesus, we love You,  
we worship and adore You,  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.  
Glorify Thy name, glorify Thy name,  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

Spirit, we love You,  
we worship and adore You,  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.  
Glorify Thy name, glorify Thy name,  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

**Today's Pray:**

*Lord, Help us to understand you so that we can share your love with all we meet. Help us to be respectful to all those around us and on this special day when we celebrate our fathers and all they do for us show us how to honour them and thank them for all they do.*

**Amen.**

# Father's Day tie card

1. Decorate and colour the tie card.
2. Cut along the dotted lines.
3. Fold along the solid lines.
4. Write a message inside the card.

