

May 19 2020-Tuesday, Sixth Week of Easter

Apostle who betrayed Jesus

When it comes to name recognition, Judas Iscariot ranks extremely high. He will forever be known as the disciple who betrayed Jesus. His name is mentioned 22 times in the New Testament (second only to Peter).

The name “Judas” was common at that time, but the meaning of “Iscariot” is uncertain. It is an obscure word and could have been his family name or his town of origin. It could also have designated his trade, physical appearance, or even political allegiance.

Few biographical details are known about Judas (which is true of most of the 12 apostles). Apart from Jesus, he has been the subject of perhaps more speculation than any of the personalities in the passion narrative (Why did he betray Jesus? Did he participate in the Eucharist? Did the words “deeply regretted what he had done” signify repentance?).

Later, non-scholarly speculation has made him out to be the older brother of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, or the beloved disciple in John’s Gospel, or a Jewish priest. There is no evidence to support such theories.

Jesus said: “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it.” (John 14:16-17)

Jesus is gathered with his close friends and he is talking to them at a difficult moment. In about 18 hours, he will be dead.

They have become very, very close. They depend upon him. They follow him wherever he goes. He decides where they are to go and what they are to do, and he is the one who handles difficult moments with the crowds. He has been their advocate.

And Jesus promises that he’s going to send them another advocate, a *paraclete*.

A paraclete is a person alongside you (the Greek word *para* means “alongside” or “next to”), someone who is with you to help.

Jesus has sent the same advocate to be with me—always. Someone who says, “Don’t worry. I’ll be there to help you.”

It’s his very Spirit.

Have I called on my advocate recently to help me in difficult moments?

Spend some quiet time with the Lord