

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Weekday Mass – Wednesday, March 31, 2021
Cycle B

In the Church's liturgical calendar, this day is called Spy Wednesday. Today, the Gospel reading narrates Judas' betrayal of Jesus as narrated by Matthew. Matthew's account is more chilling and we see a Judas who is more scheming in his plans to hand over Jesus to the authorities.

While the rest of the innocent Apostles protested justifiably after Jesus predicted a betrayer in their midst, Judas, who earlier had already negotiated with the chief priests to sell Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, had the gall to say to Jesus, "Surely, you don't mean me, Lord?"

The Scripture tells us that Satan entered into Judas' heart. But what it doesn't tell us is that Judas definitely opened the door for the devil to enter. And the devil is no shy customer. When you give the devil an inch, he will take a foot. When you give the devil a hand he will take an arm. When you give the devil a square foot, he will grab hectares for real estate to occupy. This is why Scriptures warn us "never to give the devil a chance to work on you" (Eph. 4:27).

Verses before the account of Judas' betrayal, we read about the anointing of Jesus at Bethany. There, Judas protested the extravagance of the woman who anointed with expensive perfume the feet of Jesus on the pretext that the same amount could have been used for the poor. We know from the account that Judas wanted the amount for himself as he was the treasurer of the group. He opened the door for the devil of greed to camp in his heart. The same devil of greed prompted Judas to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.

In our lives, how many doors have we opened for the devil? The door of pride, anger, lust, avarice, greed, envy, sloth? How much foothold have we given to the devil to occupy and encamp in?

Amen