

# BETRAYAL

Today is traditionally known as Spy Wednesday, because on this day we recall how Judas Iscariot first conspired to betray Christ.

Judas has a bad press, both in the Bible and in Christian tradition. The Gospels tell us that he was greedy and a thief, and that Satan possessed him. Folklore paints Judas as a child murderer, who grew up to kill his father and marry his own mother.

Dante places him in the lowest circle of Hell, being eternally devoured by a bat-like monster with three heads. In parts of Europe, this day was traditionally marked by drowning or beating an effigy of Judas to death.

But Jesus Christ, who knew all that would happen to him, never showed this murderous rage towards Judas. Even at the moment of betrayal, he simply called him “Friend.” The Saviour who taught us to pray “Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us” teaches us by his example too. Can we learn to forgive, as he does?



Jesus, if, against my will,  
I have wrought Thee any ill,  
And, seeking but to do Thee grace,  
Have smitten Thee upon the face,  
If my kiss for Thee be not  
Of John, but of Iscariot,  
Prithee then, good Jesus, pardon  
As Thou once didst in the garden,  
Call me “Friend,” and with my crime  
Build Thou Thy passion more sublime.

- Dorothy L. Sayers