



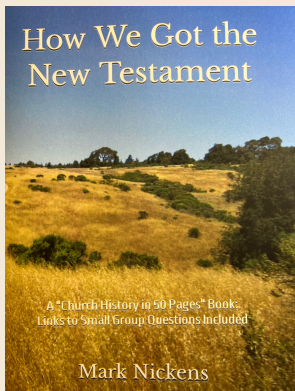
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# CHURCH HISTORY MONTHLY

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## Timeline of Topics

- Quote
- Anonymous
- Bible explanation
- Why did Judas betray Jesus?
- Middle Ages
- How we got our current calendar (by skipping 10 days!)
- Reformation
- Quotes from Luther at the supper table



My latest book: "How We Got the New Testament": A "Church History in 50 Pages" Book.

Available in Amazon as paperback or Kindle book (free with Kindle account). [Click here](#)

## ***This is not Church History, but still interesting: Why did Judas betray Jesus? My theory***

Why did Judas betray Jesus? Since Judas was the treasurer of the group (of Jesus and the Apostles) and a thief, perhaps he did it for the money (John 12:6). I have a different theory; I cannot prove it, but it does seem to make sense and answers why Judas committed suicide. Some background before we get to that, though. In the time of Jesus, several Jewish religious/political parties existed: the Pharisees, Sadducees, Herodians, Essenes, and Zealots. There were undoubtedly more, but these are the ones which get the most attention. (The Essenes are not mentioned in the NT but were the source of the Dead Sea Scrolls.) Out of all the groups, the Zealots were the ones which were, well, most zealous for getting rid of the Romans and getting the kingdom of Israel back. During the time of Jesus, the Romans occupied Israel for about 100 years. Eventually, about 30 years after Jesus, in AD 66, the Jews killed 3000 Roman soldiers and reestablish the Kingdom of Israel (the Romans returned five years later and reconquered it.) But during the time of Jesus, the Zealots only knew that they had been occupied for 100 years, and they didn't like it.

Within this Zealot group existed a smaller group called the Sicarii. Sicarii is from the Latin and means "dagger men." These fanatical Zealots carried knives with them and assassinated Romans or those Jews who had gone over to the Roman side. Judas might have been one of these Sicarii. After all, "Iscariot" and "Sicarii" are very similar, with the same letters "s-c-a-r-i" in each.

Let's say that Judas was a Sicarii. That meant that he was extremely fanatical about searching for a military leader to lead the Jews into battle against the Romans. Judas learns about Jesus, meets Jesus, and sees that Jesus attracts large crowds wherever he goes. So he sees a potential leader for the rebellion.

He joins those following Jesus, and Jesus picks him to be one of his main leaders, one of the Apostles. He begins to believe that Jesus is this military leader. So he follows Jesus. Plus Jesus heals people and raises them from the dead, just the kind of things you would want a military leader to be able to do.

But Jesus just keeps preaching and teaching. After three years, Judas is tired of waiting for the rebellion to start. He figures that he needs to back Jesus into a corner, to make him come out fighting. He goes to the Jewish leaders and tells them that he can take them to Jesus' secret prayer place. He leads them to Jesus during the night, expecting Jesus to start the rebellion. But, instead, Jesus allows himself to be captured and taken away.

Judas was confused. He was certain that Jesus was the military leader the Zealots were looking for. Then he finally gets it: Jesus is not a military leader but a spiritual leader. Judas goes back to the Jewish leaders and tells them they have made a mistake. But they ignore him, and he goes out and commits suicide.

So, this is a theory, but it does explain why Judas tried to get Jesus released and why he committed suicide.

**“If a person will attain to that which is best, he must forsake his own will; and he who helps someone to his own will helps him to the worst thing he can.”**

**Anonymous**

## **THE ONE YEAR THAT OCTOBER WAS NOT 31 DAYS LONG**

This yearly numbering system was initiated in the 500s and seemed to work well for 1000 years. But, by the middle of the 1500s, people who care about these things realized that the calendar was off a bit: 10 days to be exact. So, in 1582 Pope Gregory XIII decreed that the day after Oct 4, 1582 would be Oct 15, 1582. The Catholic countries of France, Spain, Portugal, and Italy complied. England and the American colonies followed suit in 1752, but by then the calendar trailed by 11 days; therefore Sep 2, 1752 was followed by Sep 14, 1752. Russia did not change until 1918, when Jan 31, 1918 was followed by Feb 14, 1918.

But it was not as simple as that: The countries who waited later had to add more days. For example, the USA had to cut 11 days, Japan (making the change in 1872) had to cut 12 days, and Russia had to cut 13 days.

Nor was it as simple as that for ordinary people as well. A report comes down from English history of a few people becoming angry because they believed they were losing 11 days of their lives.

Want more of the story? Click here to find out more:  
--Why the yearly calendar moved from one used in the New Testament to a calendar based on the birth of Jesus.

--Find out why the creator of the calendar was wrong 4-7 years and Jesus was not born in the year 0.

--Learn more about the leap year so you can complete this phrase: Leap years occur ever 4 years, except when you can divide the year by \_\_\_\_\_, except when the year ends in \_\_\_\_\_.

**Questions, comments, or want to join a free class contact Mark at [marknickens@gmail.com](mailto:marknickens@gmail.com)**

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## **Luther “Caught” on “Tape”: The Table Talk of Martin Luther**

Martin Luther became such a walking phenomenon that his every action and word were considered special. Once, while preaching, he asked some in the congregation not write his sermons down and publish them before he had a chance to do so himself! Some of his followers began to write down answers to questions and even off-handed remarks he made. These were eventually collected in a book called “Table Talk.” This was first published in 1566 in German and in 1646 in English. What follows are excerpts from Luther’s everyday conversations and responses.

-Gregory says, well and rightly, that the Holy Scripture is a stream of running water, where alike the elephant may swim, and the lamb walk without losing its feet.

-He who loses sight of the Word of God falls into despair; the voice of heaven no longer sustains him; he follows only the disorderly tendency of his heart, and of world vanity, which lead him on to his destruction.

-I would not have preachers torment their hearers, and detain them with long and tedious preaching, for the delight of hearing vanishes therewith, and the preachers hurt themselves.

-Philip Melanchthon demanded of Luther: how it was, that though David was instituted and ordained a king immediately of God, yet he had many tribulations and plagues, as his psalms show? Luther said: David was not acquainted with many good days; he was plagued by the ungodly and false teachers, he saw that his people banded against him, he endured and suffered many insurrections and tumults, which taught him his lesson to pray. When he was without tribulation, he grew giddy-headed and secure as we see in his adultery, and his murder of Uriah.

-When two goats meet upon a narrow bridge over deep water, how do they behave? Neither of them can turn back again, neither can pass the other, because the bridge is too narrow; if they should thrust one another, they might both fall into the water and be drowned; nature, then, has taught them, that if the one lays himself down and permits the other to go over him both remain without hurt. Even so people should rather endure to be trod upon, than to fall into debate and discord one with another.