



The Gospel According to Judas by Benjamin Iscariot

Jeffrey Archer , Francis J. Moloney

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"The very name of 'Judas' raises among Christians an instinctive reaction of criticism and condemnation...The betrayal of Judas remains...a mystery."

--Pope Benedict XVI, October 2006

The Gospel According to Judas, by Benjamin Iscariot sheds new light on the the mystery of Judas--including his motives for the betrayal and what happened to him after the crucifixion--by retelling the story of Jesus through the eyes of Judas, using the canonical texts as its basic point of reference. Ostensibly written by Judas's son, Benjamin, and following the narrative style of the Gospels, this re-creation is provocative, compelling, and controversial.

The Gospel According to Judas, by Benjamin Iscariot is the result of an intense collaboration between a storyteller and a scholar: Jeffrey Archer and Francis J. Moloney. Their brilliant work--bold and simple--is a compelling story for twenty-first-century readers, while maintaining an authenticity that would be credible to a first-century Christian or Jew.

The Gospel According to Judas by Benjamin Iscariot Details

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Author : Jeffrey Archer , Francis J. Moloney

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From Reader Review The Gospel According to Judas by Benjamin Iscariot for online ebook

Kathleen Dixon says

Shortly after I bought "My Name is Judas" by C.K. Stead, I saw this reviewed, and added it to my Waiting-to-Read list. So when I saw it at a book stall recently I grabbed it. It's totally different to Stead's novel.

While this is also fictionalised, it's written in the same form as the four gospels in the Bible. That's very clever. Archer has cross-referenced it in the same style that they are done as well, so it has the same appearance throughout as a Biblical text. I can't say that made it any more or any less credible than Stead's, but it gave it the feeling of veracity.

As I'm open about Judas' guilt (in fact, about the literalism that so many Christians feel bound to adhere to), I find all alternatives interesting. Archer's approach is intriguing and very well written.

Betsy says

As I continue to explore Jeffrey Archer, I found this book on the shelf. It is the Jesus story, but as told by Benjamin Iscariot about his father, Judas Iscariot. I would like to know more about who wrote what, and how the research was done, but . . . the highlight, for me, of this book, which I "read" in the car on CD, was that it was read by Desmond Tutu! Wow! The Jesus story - from birth to death - was fairly traditional. It led me to think back, at this season, on the year my older son Ben and I spent Christmas in southern Chile. All the churches there have creches set up, and my then four-year-old didn't, at that time, know the story. So I found myself repeating the story as we came to each different church and creche. I have never been closer to the Christian Christmas story as I was that year. Now I find myself listening to Tutu tell it on CD! (plus the Easter story, as well). What was different was what happened afterward when Judas left the area, and his eldest son went to find him - and get to know him - where he was staying. This was not remarkable writing, necessarily, but it was a new (to me) chapter of an old story.

Terynce says

Awful. A simply awful book. Full disclosure: I'm agnostic. I have studied the Bible. I realize the parts concerning Jesus were written many, many years after the fact. I'm sure history has been altered and redacted and on some level I must admit this retelling ... actually, is this purported to be fiction or non-fiction? Either way, it doesn't work.

Here's the story: what you think you know about Judas is wrong. He really was a good guy, with the best of intentions. The other apostles lied about him. He died just as Jesus did, at the hands of the Romans, while others would die at Masada.

The story offers nothing other than conjecture as to what Judas' motives may have been. Even as pure fiction it fails because a story must have a good guy and a bad guy. In this story, Judas is the good guy, wanting only what he thinks is best for Jesus and trying to save his life. Jesus is the bad guy for not doing as he's told and allowing himself to be killed and the other eleven apostles are bad for lying on noble Judas and for

forsaking the Lord. For anyone to buy that story, you have to provide plausible motivation for all involved; there was none.

This book did nothing well. It didn't offer an alternate reasonable perspective. It didn't entertain. I didn't find Desmond Tutu easy on the ears. It didn't successfully introduce any complexities to the character most of us visualize when we think Judas.

I recommend Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal. It's certainly more entertaining and probably more believable.

Jim Swike says

I was disappointed, I thought this would be different gospel as the title suggested. I didn't learn much. Maybe you will feel differently. Enjoy!

Jen says

I made it chapter 12, the turning to Jerusalem, before I had to give the CDs back to the library. I may get it back one day; I like the measured cadence of the archbishop's reading, and I don't know that I would really want to go through this book in print, which is rare for me.

While it's kind of interesting, I find it irksome that one of the main selling points of the book is that it's so good at "maintaining an authenticity that would be credible to a first-century Christian or Jew." Well, duh, because 3/4 of the part that I read is lifted from the Gospels (mostly Matthew and Luke) with expansions of Old Testament references. To be honest, it feels somewhat plagiaristic so far, and I couldn't care less about the frame narrative of this being written by Judas' son. That, so far, does nothing for the story itself. But hey, I haven't finished it, so maybe it gets better.

Kris says

An interesting treatment of the idea that perhaps Judas was not the betrayer that history portrays him as. The concept is that, as Jesus and the apostles approached Jerusalem, Judas feared for Christ's safety and made plans with a Jewish official to have Jesus spirited out of the city; however, the official was actually part of the group of Jewish leaders who were planning Jesus' death. Judas was used as a scapegoat and was identified to Jesus' followers as the man who had given him up to authorities.

I really don't know how much of this book is based on actual biblical text (although there are references to specific passages throughout the book, and Archer did enlist the aid of a biblical scholar to co-write the book). However, this is a good piece of "what if" fiction, suggesting that we don't know all the details of what happened, and that later church leaders compiling the "official", accepted scriptures may have tweaked the gospels to fit their needs at the time. There has been a lot of discussion lately related to the apocrypha, the writings that didn't make it into the "official" bible but which may or may not have been part of the church's early writings. Among these writings was found a fragment of a "Gospel of Judas", which consists of conversations between Judas and Christ; the Archer book is not directly related to this fragment, but is instead a book similar to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John - telling the story of Christ's life from Judas' point of view.

The book is written in a style intended to imitate the actual books of the New Testament; this makes it a bit

difficult to read, and is one of my few gripes. My only other real complaint is that, where the book quotes or paraphrases text from the bible, it's rendered in red; usually, in a biblical text, red lettering is only used for words spoken by Christ himself.

Dorian de Jandreau says

This book interested me like all mysteries. I had to open and read it all in few hours. I was reading easier way Bible and all book was good. Made me to seek for mysteries more!

Lars Jensen says

Bestsellerforfatteren Jeffrey Archer har skrevet en fri gendigtning af Judasevangeliet i et troværdigt leje i samarbejde med den katolske teolog, Francis Maloney.

Judas får her lov til at forklare sig. Han mente, at Jesus var en stor profet men ikke Messias. Judas blev ført bag lyset af en skriftklog, så det kom til at se ud som om Judas havde forrådt Jesus. Hans plan var at frelse Jesus, så han kunne have fortsat sit profetvirke.

Historien er nedskrevet af Judas' fiktive søn Benjamin Iskariot. Judas fremstår som en i høj grad tragisk figur. Hvis det virkelig var Judas' skæbne, fremstår Judas i lyset af den kristne tro i et lettere ironisk skær. Man får et udmærket indblik i hvordan en oprindelig tilhænger af Johannes Døberen kunne se på Jesus.

Der er mange gode tidshistoriske indsigter.

Fortællingen flyder i et let bibelsk inspireret sprog.

Udgaven kunne godt være lidt mere videnskabelig og tydeliggøre forbindelsen til det oprindelige Judasevangelium, der kom frem i 2006.

Carol Waters says

No Judas, no Christianity. It's that simple. If Christ wasn't resurrected, the whole thing falls apart. The important thing to remember is that Judas believed that he did the right thing, absolutely believed it, in this little lesson book. If Jesus made it to 80 and died of old age, would the faith have developed as it did? "Um, that part that was prophesied about my dying for your sins? Never mind....." Jesus was not always a good Jew, Judas held him accountable for that, and the rest is what it is.

Leslie says

Short but thought-provoking! A new perspective on the crucifixion of Jesus.

Monty says

I was extremely disappointed in this two hour book on tape. Most of the book quoted from the other gospels. The only new information I was able to glean from this work of fiction is that Judas had conspired with a scribe to whisk Jesus to a safe place because Judas didn't want Jesus to get killed. But the scribe was working

for the Romans and betrayed Judas. Also, Judas did not believe that Jesus was the messiah but honored him as being a man of God. After Jesus was crucified, Judas was shunned and after a month joined the Essenes who were still waiting for the true messiah to arrive. He did not hang himself, but was murdered by the Romans when they attacked the Essenses, but not before they buried some sacred texts.

Note: It struck my while listening to this book that anyone can write down anything and claim it as the truth. And anyone can either choose to accept the words as the truth or not accept them. There really is no "truth." There is only what one chooses to believe to be true.

Subbarao says

was not up to my expectation. But the way it is written in the style of other gospels is amazing.

Susie says

Started 7.26.10.

Finished 7.28.10.

Meh. I wanted to be blown away by this, but I just wasn't. I was hoping to be more inside Judas's head, but that wasn't the case. This largely tells the Gospel stories that we all know, but from Judas's point of view. Up until pretty much the ending, Judas's POV is the same as everyone else's, which we've all already heard. The take away (spoiler alert!) was that Judas was a loving and loyal disciple who thought he was doing what he could to keep Jesus from what he saw as an unnecessary death, but somewhere on the road to that, something went wrong, and Judas became the unwitting betrayer. The story of what happened to Judas after Jesus's crucifixion was probably the most interesting part of the book, but only because it was the only part that I hadn't already heard told a million times. I liked this book, to the extent that I enjoy listening to the bible stories of the Gospels, but I thought that there could've been so much more done with it. I think it's a great concept, but the execution was lacking.

Louis says

I listened to the book on CD version of this title. At first, it took some getting used to the particular accent of Desmond Tutu, the narrator. But I would say that after a minute or two I had adjusted to his cadences and diction. In fact, by the end of this book, I would say that he was the perfect narrator. He brought life to the story and the characters.

I was raised in a Christian tradition and am familiar with the Bible's content and teaching. It was fascinating to see this take on both Christ's ministry and its portrayal of Judas.

I found the story to be highly credible as a possible alternative to the story recorded in the traditional Gospels. The story is told in the third person, so while one does not hear Judas's inner thoughts, it is still interesting to read the account given by Benjamin his son.

The book is officially co-authored and includes Prof. Francis J. Moloney as one of the authors. I read in one comment on this book that he made sure that the story written by Mr. Archer was credible not only to the

modern reader but to one in the first century A.D. If this is so, then I would say that he did an excellent job.

The particular plotline involving a gullible Judas being led astray by the Jewish religious leaders was very plausible. I thought that it might have been gilding the lily though when he was the only apostle present as Jesus was sentenced by Pilate. However, the idea that the women following Christ were the ones who stayed faithful even amid this tumult was an insightful, and probably true, observation.

The conclusion of the book where Benjamin seeks out his father among the Essenes was perhaps the most interesting of the entire book. It made me wonder--many of the apostles had families that they left behind. How was that perceived by their families and the culture at large? Was this accepted? Who became the breadwinner in such a case? I suppose the extended family unit came to the rescue.

All in all, a worthwhile read, especially if you are familiar with the traditional Gospel stories.

Stacy says

Not a unique story, exactly what you learn in Sunday School. A lot of gospel quotes.
