



**The Gospel According to Judas,
by Benjamin Iscariot.
Written by Jeffery Archer and
Professor Francis Maloney**

This is a book that at first glance, you might have some doubts about. It is a work of fiction and the name of Jeffery Archer is not universally acclaimed. Written in a gospel format that we would be familiar with, it tells the story of how Judas' son might have passed on the account of Jesus' life from the optic of Judas. Our reading of Judas has been coloured by one or two references in scripture that perhaps have to be challenged. This is in fact a serious piece of Biblical scholarship; Professor Maloney is a respected author of 36 books on New Testament theology. Combining his knowledge with Archer's gift of story telling together they have produced an intriguing retelling of the Jesus Narrative. I purchased the Audio version read by Desmond Tutu and it asks some challenging questions of us as we read the text from our optic. Judas a man totally disheartened as he sees his good friend throw everything away in what he sees as Jesus getting carried along with this "messiah" obsession, that will kill his friend, and bring destruction on God's people, not freedom. Judas having betrayed Jesus, is a man desperate to stop the whole thing, to take a step back, but soon finds himself way out of his depth and out of control.

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