



The Messiah Betrayed By Judas: The Picture of a Ruined Life: Matthew 26:14- 16

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The Messiah Betrayed By Judas

- Judas stands as a great warning to every person including the strongest believer. Judas was one of the original twelve apostles chosen by Christ. He was a man with so much potential that he was chosen to serve with God's very own Son during His earthly journey, but he failed and came ever so short. Just why he failed needs to be closely studied and heeded by all.
- Picture 1: A great call rejected (v. 14).
- Picture 2: The gnawing sin of greed and the love of money (v.15)
- Picture 3: Deceit and intrigue (v. 16)



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► The First Picture

- The first picture is that of Judas' great call. Judas' great tragedy was his failure as one of the twelve apostles. Just think about the fact. Judas has been personally chosen by Christ. He had some great potential and unique qualities that attracted the Lord. Therefore, the Lord gave Judas the most honored opportunity in all the world to develop his abilities—the privilege of walking with Him personally.
- Judas Knew Christ face to face
- Judas walked with Christ day after day
- Judas heard most, if not all, that Christ taught
- Judas saw most, if not all, that Christ did
- Judas was trained to be an apostle by Christ Himself



What Christ Did For Judas

- ▶ Judas served as an apostle, even on witnessing tours, under Christ's personal command (Mk. 6:7f).
- ▶ Judas was warned of sin's consequences by Christ Himself

Nevertheless, despite all the opportunities, Judas' life was a terrible tragedy. He was so gifted and had so much opportunity, yet he lost it all. Why? Simply because he turned his back on the Lord Jesus Christ. He went to the **“the chief priests’ of this earth and put his fate into their hands instead of placing his life into the hands of Christ. He allowed his craving for more and more to blind him to the truth about Christ—that He was truly the Son who demanded loyalty, even when man could not understand the events and happenings that surrounded Him. (See Matthew 26:15). Judas simply did not believe that Christ was truly God’s Son. Therefore, he did not give his heart and life to Christ—not really.**

He was a follower of Christ; he was even one of the first twelve apostles, but he was not a genuine believer who entrusted his life to Christ.



Understanding Ministry and Serving

- “But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Mt. 20:26-28).
- “And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted” (Mt.23:12).
- “And He said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me” (Luke 9:23).
- “How can ye believe, which receive honor one of another, and seek not the honor that comes from God only? (John 5:44).



Judas' Terrible Tragedy teaches so much!!!

- It is not ability, but availability that counts
- Gifts do not assure permanent success; Christ alone assures permanent (eternal) success.
- Walking among godly people does not assure salvation; allowing Christ to enter one's heart and life is the only assurance of salvation.
- Christ sees the potential of every persons' gifts. What is lacking is man seeing the necessity of Christ in the use of his gifts.
- Final thought: **Think of the people who have heard the truth of Christ time after time, yet they still have not trusted Him as the Son of God. They are traitors, having turned their backs upon God; therefore, they are guilty of high treason against God and just don't know it.**



“

But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray Him...Jesus answered them, have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?? He spoke of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.

”

(John 6:64, 70-71)

Judas was bound to feel the pangs of guilt at such times, yet he continued to deceive himself that Christ did not really know and had no real proof. Judas kept right on taking what he felt he could safely embezzle, hardening his heart more and more. Judas apparently followed Christ out of a heart of greed and worldly ambition, and not out of a heart of love and faith in Him as the Son of God. **What about us, what is our motive for following God??**



Why Many Follow Christ

- ▶ Many follow Christ not out of a deep conviction and belief, but to get what they can out of Him. They are religious in order to fit in with a so-called Christian society. They want to promote themselves or their business within the community. To profess Christ and to belong to a church is the thing to do. But their profession in Christ does not hamper their human lusts at all. They live just as all other men live, paying little if any attention to true morality and just relationships, pure behavior and honest dealing, clean living and fair treatment.



What Judas Allowed

- ▶ Judas allowed his strength to become his weakness. This is often true with us.
- ▶ Gifts of administration can lead to being overbearing.
- ▶ Gifts of loveliness can lead to being sensual.
- ▶ Gifts of humility can lead to no service.
- ▶ Gifts of leadership can lead to being self-seeking.
- ▶ Gifts of speaking can lead to being super-spiritual.



Judas deceitful Act

- ▶ When we study the text we note the words “He sought opportunity to betray Him.” The picture is that of being on the prowl, searching and seeking, looking here and there for the right moment. Judas’ heart was set, full of intrigue, plotting evil and planning its strategy. He did not believe Jesus was the Son of God, but he did not stop at unbelief. He willed to do evil against Christ, to hurt Him and to destroy Him, and he sought opportunity to do so. Just how deceitful Judas was can be seen by noticing that immediately after bargaining with the authorities, he sat down to eat with Jesus. He sat at the very table where the Lord’s Supper was being instituted.
- ▶ Judas not only rejected, but sought to destroy Jesus. Many reject Christ, but they do not all seek to harm and destroy Him. Some do, but not all.