

**Subject: *Unmasking Judas the Deceiver***

**Scripture: *John 13:12-30***

We should understand this passage about Judas in the context of Jesus' words in ***John 12:35-36*** <sup>35</sup> *Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.* <sup>36</sup> *While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.*

Judas heard those words. It was a gracious invitation to come out of spiritual darkness and to walk in the light and believe in the light. Judas also heard Jesus say this in ***John 12:46*** *I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.*

Judas was obviously a man who loved the darkness and had grown used to it. He had lived with the Light, but his heart was cold and dark and now nightfall was coming upon his soul, as it suggests in the ominous words of verse 30 ("and it was night"). I want you to see several things about Judas the deceiver.

### **THE MOTIVATION OF JUDAS (vs. 2)**

It is not surprising to find the devil in the middle of this story. Judas became a deceiver and along the way he was motivated by the master of deception. ***John 8:44*** *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

Judas was motivated by the devil, but that doesn't mean we can blame all sin on the devil. Even if the devil did not exist we would still sin because we have a sinful nature. It is called the flesh, and if left to itself is capable of all kinds of evil.

### **THE REVELATION OF JUDAS (vs. 10-11, 18-19, 21)**

Jesus knew that Judas would betray Him, ***John 6:64, 70-71***. He knew that Judas was not a true believer, but a pretender, a make-believer, and a fraud. He knew that Judas would fulfill the scripture found in ***Psalms 41:9*** *Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.*

Jesus revealed the fact that someone would betray Him so that when it happened they would know His death was not an accident. His disciples would realize that Jesus laid down His own life as the Father had planned all along.

### **THE ADMIRATION OF JUDAS (vs. 22-29)**

The other disciples had no idea that Jesus was referring to Judas as the betrayer. They all questioned if it could be them. Even Judas, as a good play-actor, asked ***Matthew 26:25*** *Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said.*

Two things are clear. One is that no one suspected Judas to be a deceiver. Even when Judas left the upper room, the other disciples assumed that Jesus sent him on an errand. Judas was the respected treasurer of the group. If anybody could be trusted, he could be. But actually he

was a thief, **John 12:4-6** <sup>4</sup> Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, <sup>5</sup> Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? <sup>6</sup> This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

### **THE CONDEMNATION OF JUDAS (vs. 27, 30)**

Satan entered into him and he went out...and it was night. It was night for his dark soul. The last time Judas would see Jesus was a few hours later in the Garden of Gethsemane when he led the temple officers to arrest Jesus. He gave them a sign so they would know it was Jesus. He kissed Jesus on the cheek. It was the ultimate act of betrayal. It was the act that sealed his eternal destiny. Judas was a man who actually kissed the door to heaven and went to hell.

**Luke 22:53** *When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness.*

In the upper room Jesus warned Judas about the horrible punishment, **Matthew 26:23-24** <sup>23</sup> And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. <sup>24</sup> The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born.

In a sense what is said of Judas is true for every person who dies without salvation. It would be better for them if they had never been born. However many unsaved people would say, "I don't believe in Jesus as my Lord and Savior and I don't consider myself as a follower of Christ, but I'm sure not like Judas. I think too much of Jesus to ever sell Him out like that." What's wrong with that? Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me."

### **LESSONS TO LEARN FROM JUDAS**

- There is nothing sinful men can do to stop God's sovereign plan

How do we understand everything that happened to Judas? Who is to blame for what happened? Do we blame Judas or the devil? The Scripture had to be fulfilled, so was Judas responsible for his actions? Yes, Judas is responsible. He is accountable for his unbelief, pride, and his act of betraying Jesus. At the same time God is sovereign. As all of this took place the disciples were surprised and deceived, but not God. He was not surprised or deceived. In fact, God used the evil of Judas to accomplish His purpose.

- Guard your heart against evil thoughts

We see a progression from verse 2 to verse 27. At first Satan put evil thoughts into Judas' heart, but in the end Satan entered his heart. We have a clear warning in **Proverbs 4:23** *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.* **Hebrews 3:12** *Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.* Genuine believers keep on believing and keep on repenting after they come to Christ.

- The love of money and worldly values is deadly

Judas thought Jesus was going to be a powerful world ruler, a political Messiah who would overthrow the Roman government and make life better. He wanted to be a part of that kingdom, but as time went on he began to realize that wasn't going to happen. He heard Jesus

talk about persecution and suffering. He heard Jesus predict that He would be rejected, mocked, and crucified. He saw Jesus wash their feet, even his own feet. But instead of being grateful and humbled by it, he was offended and resentful and probably thought, “What kind of a Messiah is this?” And so he looked for a convenient opportunity to cut his losses and sell Jesus out. In the end money meant more to him than eternal salvation. Many people have their heart on the wrong things. They are like one of Paul’s co-workers named Demas who forsook Paul because he “loved this present world.” Jesus asked: “What shall it profit a man if he should gain the whole world and lose his own soul?”

- It is always dangerous to reject Biblical truth

The Bible speaks plainly that Messiah would be a humble servant and a suffering servant. Jesus taught about the cost of being a disciple. He taught about the need to repent; He warned against pride and self-righteousness; He taught about the dangers of coveting and loving riches, but Judas would not listen and he would not submit.

- We may have great privileges and blessings, yet still be lost

Judas took many special blessings for granted. He walked with Jesus, lived with Him, saw His miracles, heard His teachings, and watched His example. Jesus had loved him and been patient with him for 3½ years, but it seems like all these things meant very little to him. The greatest tragedy in life is not what people suffer, but what they miss.

- The devil is always at work among God’s people

Judas was one of the twelve. He is an example of the parable of the wheat and the tares.

- Hypocrisy may be satisfying, but it is always costly

Judas became very good at acting the part and wearing the mask. He was always at the right places, saying the right words and doing the right things, but inside he was a fraud. One day at a time, one week at a time, he deceived others and he deceived himself. Living a lie became second nature. He fooled everybody...except Jesus.

Ask yourself: “Is there any Judas in me?”

Am I driven by the world’s values? Do I live for the here and now?

Do I have a low view of Scripture or do I submit to its authority over my life?

Do I take God’s blessings for granted, or am I humbled and grateful for what I have?

Have I become so used to playing the part of a Christian that I don’t even have to try?

**2 Corinthians 13:5** *Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith.*