

The Gospel of Matthew #107

JUDAS: I

TWO COINS, TWO TENSIONS, TWO MYSTERIES

Matthew 26:24

Matthew 26-28 are heart of Gospel: Jesus' suffering, death, resurrection
Again I do two sermons on two related texts: about Judas Iscariot, the
most tragic character in all of human history

Third time, two days before Passover, Jesus mentions that He will be
betrayed: 26:2 (cf 17:22; 20:18)
26:20-35 is Matthew's account of the Supper.
26:21 shockingly specific: one of **you** will betray Me.
Then in 26:24 Jesus combines two thoughts that take our breath away:

1. The Son of Man **WILL GO**: **God's sovereignty**
2. **BUT WOE** to the one who betrays Him

Man's responsibility

I. WILL GO

It has been prophesied and **must** take place:
Isaiah 53, Daniel 9:26; Psalm 22; Zechariah 11:12-13
Jesus: Matthew 17:22; 20:18; 26:2: *must* occur

So looking back in Acts: 2:23a and 4:28

II. BUT WOE

Better for him if he had not been born! Think of that....
Cannot conclude that Judas had no choice
Jesus *appeals* to him (20:23-5)

So Acts 2:23b and 4:27 indicate wicked culpability

So we live in a day that neither takes comfort in God's sovereignty (His
purposes **will** be accomplished), nor accepts responsibility for our
actions (I am a victim of my genes and other people)

This leads us to the other two sided coin hinted at here:

1. Assurance: you can know you are saved
2. Self-examination: beware the abuse of presumption

I. ASSURANCE

Matthew 26:28 "many" is **YOU** in Luke 22:19, 20

Cf. Matthew 28:20 I am with **YOU**

I John 5:13

II. SELF-EXAMINATION

Matthew 26:20-22 willing to ask, "Surely not I, Lord?"

Contra Peter in v31-35

and Judas when Jesus confronted him (v25)

So the "these things" of I John 5:13 are the over 20 marks of new life
in a believer, which he can see (egs 1:6-7, 8; 2:3-4; 3:7-10;
4:19-21; 5:2-3)

II Corinthians 13:5 test yourself

Romans 8:16 witness of Spirit to our spirit

These are the glorious mysteries of the Christian Faith:

God is sovereign in all He has decreed -- I am responsible to trust and
obey Him

I can know I have eternal life in Christ (John 10:27-30) -- I must from
time to time examine my heart to make sure I am not deceiving
myself through presumption (of course I am a Christian; I made a
public decision 20 years ago)

Ask Judas. He now wishes he had never been born.