

GOSPEL OF JOHN
JUDAS ISCARIOT– BETRAYER
JOHN 13:18-30

Introduction

This morning our **SCRIPTURE** focuses on the man who had the distinction of betraying our **LORD JESUS CHRIST– JUDAS ISCARIOT**.

Mark’s Gospel account of this event records **JESUS** as saying this of **HIS** betrayer in *Mark 14:21*–“*The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born.*”

Understand that for about three years **JUDAS** followed and had close interaction with the **LORD** in the much the same way as the other eleven **DISCIPLES!** He appeared to be one of them, but **JESUS** knew the real **JUDAS!**

John 6:70–“*Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?*”

Apparently **JUDAS** initially shared the hope of **CHRIST’S KINGDOM**, and he likely believed that **JESUS** was the **MESSIAH**. After all, he also had left everything to follow the **LORD** as did the other **DISCIPLES**.

Yet, while the others were growing closer to the **LORD**, **JUDAS** was quietly becoming a vile, calculating tool of **SATAN**. Whatever his character may have seemed to be at the beginning, his **FAITH** was **NOT** real!
(*John 13:10-11*)

Let’s notice some things about **JUDAS ISCARIOT**:

I. WE SEE THAT JUDAS HAD A NAME!

The name **JUDAS** means “*praise of GOD.*” So, it is likely that his parents had high hopes for their son like other parents.

ISCARIOT means “*a citizen or man of KERIOTH.*” **KERIOTH** was a town in the extreme southern part of **JUDAH** that was also known as **HAZOR**.

The people of this area were staunchly **JEWISH**.

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The rest of the **APOSTLES** were from **GALILEE**. But **JUDAS** likely had a different attitude or mind set from the other **APOSTLES**, though they all were **JEWISH**. (e.g. *The same way folks from different areas our nation today think so differently!*)

But like the others, JUDAS had a name that said he belonged to CHRIST. *PETER* said in *Acts 1:17*–“*For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.*” He was **numbered** with those who were **genuine**, but he was a **phony!**

A. He Was A DISCIPLE Of CHRIST! (i.e. A follower; a pupil)
He was already a **follower** of **JESUS** when we first meet him.
But, we are not given the details of his call.

B. He Was An APOSTLE Of CHRIST! (i.e. Sent ones)
In *Luke 6:13-16* he is listed right along with the **other eleven DISCIPLES** whom **JESUS** named as being **APOSTLES**.

Only thirteen men in all of history have had that privilege!
(i.e. *The original twelve and the Apostle Paul!*)

C. He Was Empowered By CHRIST!
According to Matthew 10:1-8 he was empowered by Christ:

- 1. He Was Empowered To Preach!**
- 2. He Was Empowered To Heal Sick People!**
- 3. He Was Empowered To Cleanse Lepers!**
- 4. He Was Empowered To Raise The Dead!**
- 5. He Was Empowered To Cast Out Devils!**

If **JUDAS** did not have these abilities as did all the other **APOSTLES**, he would have stuck out like a sore thumb!

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D. He Was Accepted By The Other APOSTLES!

He fit right in with this group of mis-fits.

We don't have any indication **at all** that the other **DISCIPLES** even so much as had a clue that **JUDAS** was the one who would betray **JESUS** until **JESUS** gave him the sop at the **PASSOVER SUPPER** and from what we read, **I don't think they realized it then either!**

JUDAS HAD A NAME...THAT SAID HE BELONGED TO CHRIST.

II. JUDAS WAS AN EYEWITNESS!

He was in the presence of CHRIST on many occasions during the approximate three years of JESUS' ministry!

A. He Was Where The Action Was Going On!

1. **JUDAS Was CALLED By JESUS To Be With JESUS!**
2. **JUDAS Was BAPTIZED! (John's Baptism)**
3. **JUDAS Heard The TEACHINGS Of JESUS!**
4. **JUDAS Observed The MIRACLES Of JESUS!**
5. **JUDAS Observed The Life Of CHRIST!**
6. **JUDAS Was A Witness To The Mighty Power Of GOD!**
7. **JUDAS Was A Friend To The LORD JESUS!**
Prophesied by the Psalmist...
Psalm 41:9—“*Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.*”

John 13:18b—“*He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.*”

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And yet, after all of his close experience with the **SAVIOUR**, **JUDAS** betrayed **JESUS** to a cruel death for thirty pieces of silver (*the price of a slave under the MOSAIC LAW*).

B. Now Get This—A Person Can Be In The Presence Of JESUS Without Being In HIM!

Matthew 18:20—“*For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*”

On the **outside**, **JUDAS** was everything that **PETER**, and **JOHN** the Beloved were!

1. A person can be **CALLED** by **CHRIST** without being **IN HIM!**
2. A person can be **BAPTIZED** in **HIS** name without being in **HIM!**
3. A person can **HEAR** the **TEACHINGS** of **JESUS** without being in **HIM!**
4. A person can observe the **MIRACLES** of **JESUS** without being in **HIM!**
5. A person can **OBSERVE** the life of **CHRIST** working in others without being in **HIM!**
6. A person can be a **WITNESS** the mighty power of **CHRIST** without being in **HIM!**
7. A person can think himself or herself to be a friend of **JESUS** without being in **HIM!**

FAITH is a funny thing isn't it – because, seeing is not always **BELIEVING!**

JUDAS HAD A NAME...THAT SAID HE BELONGED TO CHRIST, JUDAS WAS AN EYEWITNESS. . .

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III. JUDAS WAS A COUNTERFEIT! (*Matthew 13:24-30 Tares*)

He was a **counterfeit** – a **tare** that looked a lot like **wheat**!

He was **only a follower**, but **not born again**!

JUDAS looked like, sounded like, and acted like a **CHRISTIAN**!

He was **clean on the outside**, as were many of the **PHARISEES**, but **on the inside, he was filthy and wicked** (*John 13:10,11*).

The most dangerous kind of person, is the murderer that you can't detect, or wouldn't expect to be one! (*e.g. Ted Bundy the serial killer*)

None of the **MIRACLES** of the **LORD JESUS**, none of the **WORDS** of the **LORD JESUS**, none of the **LOVE** of the **LORD JESUS** for him seemed to make any difference in the life of **JUDAS ISCARIOT**!

His heart still held on to this world. He never let **JESUS** really change him. When it counted, he thought only of himself!

IV. JUDAS WAS A THIEF! (*John 12:4-6, Mary's anointing JESUS.*)

THIEVERY was a crime punishable by death in **JESUS'** day!

It was and is a wicked crime! The two other men on the crosses next to **JESUS** were **THIEVES**!

JUDAS may have thought that his **THIEVERY** (stealing a few coins out of the bag) wouldn't matter in the big picture.

No doubt many **THIEVES** think it doesn't matter and that what they steal won't be missed!

The **BIBLE** warns against the love of money:

1 Timothy 6:9-10– “But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

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We might ask, why did **JESUS** choose **JUDAS**, if he knew he was of such character? (*John 6:70,71*)

SCRIPTURE doesn't say, but maybe it was for our benefit to teach us how to love as **JESUS** loved **JUDAS** even while knowing he was a **DEVIL** would betray **HIM**!

JUDAS HAD A NAME...THAT SAID HE BELONGED TO CHRIST, JUDAS WAS AN EYEWITNESS...JUDAS WAS A COUNTERFEIT... JUDAS WAS A THIEF...

V. JUDAS WAS A BETRAYER!

What is a **BETRAYER**? To **BETRAY** means “*to give away to the enemy; hand over or expose to the power of the enemy by treachery or disloyalty.*”

It means “*to be unfaithful to; let down.*” (e.g. We speak of someone having **BETRAYED** their friends by breaking their trust or promise.)

It means “*to give away*” (as in giving away a secret entrusted to one). (*e.g. To betray a friend's confidence.*)

It is “*a violation of trust or confidence.*”

A. Why Did JUDAS Betray JESUS?

What was his motive? Well, we don't know for sure.

1. He may have seen it as a fast source of income – quick return on little amount of effort.
2. He may have believed that **JESUS** would never allow **HIMSELF** to be condemned .
3. He may have thought that **JESUS** would just pass between them as **HE** had done before.
4. He may have believed that the **PHARISEES'** plan would fail, and **PILATE** would have to release **JESUS**.

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5. He may have thought everything would just return back to normal afterward, but only with himself richer!

B. Why Did The PHARISEES Need A BETRAYER?

1. They knew they couldn't capture **JESUS** out in the open – everybody would have rioted against them.
2. They needed someone close to **JESUS**, to lead them **TO HIM** when everything was right for **HIM** to be captured without a struggle.

C. How JUDAS BETRAYED JESUS.

(Matthew 26:1-4; 14-25; 30-50)

1. It was not by surprise – **JESUS** was **BORN** to die for our sin, and **it was PROPHESED that HE would be betrayed.** **JESUS** knew this all along.
2. It came at the right time – when it was **CHRIST'S** time of choosing.
3. It came when the other **DISCIPLES** were not suspecting it! *(Matthew 26:22)*
4. **JUDAS** betrayed **CHRIST** with a kiss– a gesture of love and affection.

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VI. JUDAS WAS LOST. (Matthew 26:24)

A. JUDAS Never Really Listened To JESUS, Or BELIEVED ON HIM In His Heart!

JUDAS believed IN **JESUS**– just as every demon of hell does!

JUDAS, as a good **JEW** wanted to be delivered from the **ROMAN** rule! But he wasn't submissive to **JESUS'** rule!

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He did not want **KING JESUS** who made it imperative that the **KINGDOM** had to come through **HIM**, and **HIS** death on the **CROSS**, not through some great battle on the battlefield.

B. JUDAS Received Warning From CHRIST To No Avail!
(Matthew 26:20-25)

Many a lost **CHURCH** member has received warning after warning from **CHRIST** in a service such as this but to no avail.

C. Sadly, JUDAS Allowed SATAN To Have Control Of His Life Rather Than CHRIST! (Vs 27)

John 6:70–“Have not I chosen you and one of you is a devil.”

Luke 22:3–“Then Satan entered into Judas Iscariot. . .”

John 13:2–“. . .the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him.”

Are you rejecting **CHRIST'S** right to control your life?

D. JUDAS Died A Tragic Death! (Matthew 27:3-5)

JUDAS tried to pay for his sin by taking his own life, but **only** the death of **JESUS CHRIST** can pay for anyone's sin!
Anyone who dies without CHRIST dies a tragic death!
Anyone who goes to hell, goes there needlessly!

Conclusion

It is not what we are called, but rather what we **ARE** that is important.

A person can be known as a **CHRISTIAN** or a **DISCIPLE** and yet still be lost.

A person can even do good things in the name of **CHRIST** and still be lost.

Are you the real thing or counterfeit? The preacher may not know, those around you may not know, but **GOD** knows.