



Judas Iscariot

Transformed People: The Twelve Apostles
(B.L. Newberry, Spring 2020)

Judas within the Twelve



Luke 6:14-16

Peter
Andrew
James
John

Philip
Bartholomew
Matthew
Thomas

James (the less)
Simon
Thaddeus
Judas Iscariot

- Judas is the final member of the twelve. He is always listed last [**Matt. 10:4, Mark 3:19, Luke 6:16**]. In every list, he is also clearly identified as a traitor.
- His name means “Jehovah Leads”. It is a form of Judah. This is sadly ironic, as Judas was never led by Jesus. His surname, Iscariot, indicates he was from Kerioth in the south of Judea. This means that he was likely the only apostle not from the Galilee region.
- **John 6:71** indicates his father’s name was Simon.

The Motives of Judas (1 of 2)



- One of the most difficult aspects of Judas to understand is his disbelief. He was in the presence of Jesus for three years, and yet he seemed unchanged. Moreover, Jesus chose him knowing he would not change. **Then Jesus replied, “Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!” (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.) [John 6: 70-71]**
- Many have speculated as to Judas’ motives to travel with Jesus. MacArthur in *Twelve Ordinary Men* writes that his motives were for power and personal gain. The Spirit does reveal in scripture that he was a thief [**John 12:4-6**]. It is also likely that he held Jewish nationalistic hopes for an earthly king and ruler.
- What is clear is that Judas allowed himself to be open to Satan [**Luke 22:3 and John 13:2**].

The Motives of Judas (2 of 2)



- I would speculate that on the day Judas first joined the Twelve, he would not have expected to betray Jesus, enabling his death, with a kiss. We may never know exactly why Judas agreed to join the Twelve, but it is clear that he never really joined them in spirit.
- While frightening to consider, perhaps this is a lesson for us. Being in the company of saints does not make one a saint. Reading scripture does not necessarily imply believing scripture. Judas allowed his heart to be open to Satan by never binding his heart to Jesus.
- **What are potential signs that we could be falling into the path of Judas?**
 - **Failing to grow in faith over time?**
 - **Failing to grow in purity over time?**

The Act of Betrayal (1 of 2)



- While Jesus knew that Judas would betray him, the other apostles did not. Judas lived a life of hypocrisy that fooled the crowds. After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.” His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. [**John 13:21-22**]
- **Matt. 26:14-16** speaks of Judas willingly going to the chief priests and volunteering to hand Jesus over for money. The fact that he asked for money would indicate that his intentions were corrupt.
- After Jesus is arrested and it is clear Jesus will be executed, Judas has “remorse”.

The Act of Betrayal (2 of 2)



- **Matt. 27:1-10**

Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. “I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.” “What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.” So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. The chief priests picked up the coins and said, “It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money.” So they decided to use the money to buy the potter’s field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: “They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price set on him by the people of Israel, 10 and they used them to buy the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”

- **Contrast this “remorse” with that of Peter after he denied the Lord three times?**

What can we learn from Judas?



- **Opportunity Can Be Wasted**

- Hearing does not mean believing!
- Actions speak far louder than words!

- **The Love of Money and Personal Gain Can Be Crippling**

- Hypocrisy can exist everywhere, even in the life of a supposed follower!
- The power of greed is far more dangerous than we often want to admit!

- **The Will and The Plans of God Will Never Be Thwarted By Man**

- Jesus loved His enemy for three years knowing what he would do!