

JUDAS THE BETRAYER

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Judas Iscariot is the man guilty of the worst sin ever committed, betraying Jesus Christ the Son of God to be crucified. He was one of Christ's original twelve apostles, carefully chosen with the others after Jesus had spent all night in prayer to his Father (Luke 6:12-16). Of his selection of Judas Iscariot as one of the apostles, Christ said, "*Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?*" He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve" (John 6:70-71). Christ chose a "devil" as one of his apostles so that Judas could fulfill the evil work that was prophesied of him.

The reasons for the betrayal

Six days before the Passover, at the beginning of our Lord's last week on earth, Jesus Christ came to the village of Bethany, only a short distance from Jerusalem (John 12:1). Bethany was the home of Lazarus and his sisters Mary and Martha (John 11:1). Jesus was in the house of Simon the leper (Matt 26:6). "There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him. Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odor of the ointment. Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? 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. Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always" (John 12:2-8). This event is also described in Matthew 26:6-13, and verses 14-16 say, "*Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, and said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.*" There is a direct connection between the timing of the anointing of Jesus' feet by Mary and Judas seeking to betray him (see the same connection made in Mark 14:1-10). Jesus had openly rebuked Judas in front of everyone and also cost him an opportunity to embezzle a nice sum of money. Proverbs 9:7-8 says, "*He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked man getteth himself a blot. Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee.*" Jesus knew exactly how Judas would respond to this, but the Lord also had to intervene for the protection of his other disciples, because they were being misled by Judas. John 12:4 says that Judas raised the issue about wasting the ointment instead of selling it to help the poor. However, the other apostles joined him in rebuking Mary and murmuring against her, and Jesus reprovved Judas and corrected his evil influence on the others (Mark 14:4-9). This was also a short time after Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead, and so many people believed on Christ after that miracle that the leaders of the Jews held a council and determined to put him to death (John 11:47-53). When Jesus was at the supper in Simon's house in Bethany, many people came there to see the Lord and also to see Lazarus (John 12:9). The chief priests then also "consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death; because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus" (John 12:10-11). The very next day was Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem (John 12:12-15). "*The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after him*" (John 12:19). Thus, the envy of the leaders of the Jews (Matt 27:18; Mark 15:10)

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(continued)

merged with the anger and hatred of Judas Iscariot resulting in the betrayal and crucifixion of Christ.

Judas' actions on his last night

On the last night on the earth for both Jesus Christ and Judas Iscariot, John 13:2 says, "And supper being ended, *the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him.*" Judas was there in the upper room for that "last supper." John 13:21-30 says, "When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake. Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake. He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it? Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. *And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.* Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him. For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor. He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night." The chief priests and scribes had "sought how they might kill him; for they feared the people" (Luke 22:2). Thus, they were seeking for an opportunity to seize Christ in private to avoid being opposed by the people. This is where Judas came to their aid, after Satan had entered into him (Luke 22:3). Judas knew where to bring the mob to take Jesus. John 18:2-5 says, "And *Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus ofttimes resorted thither with his disciples.* Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons. Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. *And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them.*" This is also when Judas used a gesture of love and affection to betray the Son of God to be killed. Mark 14:44-45 says, "And he that betrayed him had given them a token, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he; take him, and lead him away safely. And as soon as he was come, he goeth straightway to him, and saith, Master, master; and kissed him." In Luke 22:48, the Lord responded to this with a question, "*Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?*" After it was too late, Judas realized what he had done. Matthew 27:3-5 says, "Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself." When he hung himself, God did not allow Judas' suicide to go smoothly, as he ended up "*falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out*" (Acts 1:18). But most importantly, the spirit of wicked Judas departed from his splattered corpse and entered into a woeful eternity. He will spend the ages to come without end in torment. Jesus Christ said of his betrayer, "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*" (Mark 14:21).