

Judas Iscariot

'The names of the twelve apostles are these; Simon who is called Peter, Andrew his brother, James and John the sons of Zebedee, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew the tax collector, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Canaanite and Judas Iscariot who betrayed Him' (Matthew 10:2 to 4).

'Jesus called His disciples and from them He chose twelve whom He named apostles; Simon whom He renamed Peter, Andrew his brother, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, Judas (Thaddaeus) son of James and Judas Iscariot who became a traitor' (Luke 6:13 to 16).

The first mention of Judas Iscariot makes it clear to all, he was a traitor. Judas and the other eleven apostles had more opportunity to accept Jesus and the salvation message than any other group on earth, at any time on earth. They learned a tremendous amount about the Messiah, what He came for, angels, the Kingdom of heaven, the evil side of the spirit world and our authority over them, and a host of other things but Judas never truly accepted Jesus or the salvation message. 'He was numbered with us (apostles) and received his portion in this ministry' (Acts 1:17). Jesus is God and as God, He knew Judas was never going to accept Him, He knew Judas was going to betray Him and would be paid thirty pieces of silver for his trouble, and He knew that betrayal would lead to His arrest and death, but Jesus chose Judas as an apostle anyway. 'Jesus said, "Did I not choose you twelve and one of you is a devil?" He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for it was he who would betray Him and he was one of the twelve apostles' (John 6:70 & 71).

Jesus had to be betrayed to fulfil the prophecies written in the Scriptures and we will see how exactly those prophecies were fulfilled. 'Yes, My own familiar friend whom I trusted, who ate bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me' (Psalm 41:9). 'They weighed for my wages thirty pieces of silver. God said to me, "Throw it to the potter, the price I (Jesus) was valued at by them (the Children of Israel)!" I (Zechariah revealing what Judas would later do) took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of God' (Zechariah 11:12 & 13). Jesus prayed, "While I was with them I kept them in Your name. Those whom you have given Me I have kept. None of them is lost except the Son of Perdition so the Scripture might be fulfilled" (John 17:12). 'Brothers, it was necessary this Scripture should be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke (many years) before by the mouth of King David concerning Judas who was guide to those (sinners) who took Jesus. He was numbered with us and received his portion in this ministry. This man (Judas) obtained a field with the reward for his wickedness and falling headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines gushed out. It became known to everyone who lived in Jerusalem in their language (Hebrew), that field was called 'Akeldama,' that is, 'The field of blood' (Acts 1:16 to 19).

'One of the twelve apostles who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me so I should deliver Him to you?" They weighed out for him thirty pieces of silver. From that time he sought an opportunity to betray Jesus ... As the apostles were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray Me." They were exceedingly distressed and each asked Him, "Is it me, Lord?" Jesus answered, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me. The Son of Man must go as it is written of Him, but woe to that man through whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would be better for that man if he had not been born." Judas who betrayed him said, "Is it me, Rabbi?" Jesus said to Judas, "You said it." ... Jesus came to His disciples and said to them, "Behold the hour is at hand and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Arise, let us be going. Behold, he who betrays Me is at hand." While Jesus was still speaking, behold Judas, one of the twelve apostles came and with him a great multitude with swords and clubs from the chief priest and elders of the people. Judas who betrayed Him gave them a sign saying, "Whoever I kiss, He is the one. Seize Him." Immediately he came to Jesus and said, "Hail, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, why are you here?" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him away' (Matthew 26:14 to 16; 21 to 25; 45 to 50).

'The chief priests and the scribes sought how they could put Jesus to death for they feared the people. Satan entered into Judas Iscariot who was numbered with the twelve apostles. He went away and talked with the chief priests and captains about how he might deliver Jesus to them. They were glad and agreed to give him money. He consented and sought an opportunity to deliver Jesus to them in the absence of the multitude of people ... Judas, one of the twelve apostles was leading the mob. He came near to Jesus to kiss Him. Jesus said to him, "Judas, do you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" (Luke 22:2 to 6; 47 & 48).

'The devil had already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son to betray Him ... Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." John asked Him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it." So when He had dipped the piece of bread, He gave it to Judas the son of Simon Iscariot. After eating the piece of bread (exactly as the prophecy foretold), Satan entered into him then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." No man at the

table knew why Jesus said this to him. Some thought, because Judas had the money purse Jesus was inferring, "Buy what things we need for the feast," or he should give something to the poor. Having received the morsel, Judas went out immediately into the night ... Jesus later went out with His disciples over to the Kidron Brook where there was a garden into which He and His disciples entered. Judas who betrayed Him also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with His disciples' (John 13:2, 21; 25 to 30; 18:1 & 2).

'When Judas who betrayed Him saw Jesus was condemned to death, felt remorse and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders saying, "I have sinned. I have betrayed innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? You see to it." Judas threw down the pieces of silver in the sanctuary (the house of God) and departed (exactly as the prophecy foretold). He went out and hanged himself. The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury since it is the price of blood." They took counsel and bought the potter's field with the silver. That field was called, 'The Field of Blood' to this day. 'What was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled saying, "They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of Him upon Whom a price had been set, Whom some of the children of Israel priced and they gave the silver for the potter's field'" (Matthew 27:3 to 10). Matthew said the prophet was Jeremiah but it was actually Zechariah who had prophesied (Zechariah 11:12 & 13).

Judas was a doomed man from the moment he chose to betray Jesus Who said, "Woe to that man through whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would be better for that man if he had not been born," and, "One of you is a devil," and He called Judas the Son of Perdition, meaning doom and destruction. Judas betrayed Jesus out of greed and in an act of pure spite because he was told to leave Mary alone. He was irritated when Mary anointed Jesus with pure fragrant oil in preparation for His burial. 'Mary took a pound of very precious ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, one of Jesus' disciples who would betray Him said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" He said this, not because he cared for the poor but because he was a thief and having the money purse used to steal what was put into it. Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She has kept this for the day of My burial'" (John 12:3 to 7).

We notice Judas was not taken over by an evil spirit, he was taken over by the devil himself. Judas had seen Jesus escape arrest and death several times and probably assumed He would escape again but when Jesus did not escape that last time, Judas was filled with remorse. Remorse is not repentance. All the apostles ran off leaving the Lord all alone and Peter denied Him but they all repented and were saved. Judas never repented and was condemned. There were several men named Judas during the days of the apostles but only one of them betrayed Jesus. Most of these men named Judas had other names. Sometimes Jesus' own brother Judah (which means 'Praise' and who wrote the Book of Jude) was called Judas. 'Is this not the carpenter Joseph's Son? Is His mother called Mary and His brothers James, Joses, Simon and Judas?' (Matthew 13:55). 'Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James, Joses, Judah and Simon? Are his sisters not here with us?'" (Mark 6:3). The apostle Thaddaeus was sometimes called Judas the son of James (Luke 6:16). 'Judas (not Iscariot) said to Jesus, "Lord, what has happened that You are about to reveal Yourself to us and not to the world?'" (John 14:22). 'They went up into the upper room where they were staying; that is Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot and Judas (Thaddaeus) the son of James' (Acts 1:13). 'Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the enrollment and drew away some people after him' (Acts 5:37). 'It seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole assembly to choose men out of their company and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, Judas called Barsabbas and Silas, chief men among the brothers ... We have sent therefore Judas and Silas ... Judas and Silas, being prophets encouraged and strengthened the brothers (and sisters) with many words' (Acts 15:22, 27 & 32). But the traitor Judas was distinctly identified as the son of Simon Iscariot. 'He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for it was he who would betray Him ... Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, one of His disciples would betray Him ... When Jesus had dipped the piece of bread He gave it to Judas the son of Simon Iscariot' (John 6:71; 12:4; 13:26). The name Iscariot simply means, the man or person from Kerioth. In the same way, Jesus was known as Jesus of Nazareth because He grew up in the city of Nazareth.

In these last days, some people will act like Judas Iscariot and will betray genuine heartfelt Christians – modern day disciples. The betrayers may not be unbelievers. They may be 'tares' or 'goats' hidden amongst the 'wheat' or 'sheep' like Judas was. He was an apostle who served the Lord right up until he betrayed Jesus and in our day, there might be people who will do the same to us. However, through the blood and cross of Jesus, the horror that took place after Judas betrayed Jesus, and through the resurrection of Jesus we have the Gospel message so we can have hope and faith in God. 'Through Jesus we are believers in God Who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory so your faith and hope might be in God ... the Lord's Word endures forever. This is the Word of the Gospel which was taught to you' (1 Peter 1:21 & 25).

Amen and God bless you.

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