

## Lessons Learned from Judas

**Luke 22:1-6; John 13; Matthew 26, 27**

Anyone learn life lessons the hard way?

Anyone learn life lessons from watching other people?

Today I want to look at life/spiritual lessons we can learn from the life of Judas Iscariot.

### **I. Sin never delivers what it promises.**

#### **• Read verses 1-3**

- Satan entices men to act in a way that they consider their own best interest, but which extends his control over their lives.
- In verse three Luke tells us **“Then entered Satan into Judas, surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.”** Luke’s statement that “Satan entered Judas” does not suggest demon possession as such but rather influence.
- The same idea was clear stated by Peter when he spoke of the sin of Ananias, the husband of Sapphira, when he said **(Acts 5:3), “But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?”**
- Satan did enter Judas’ heart, but he could not have entered had not Judas opened the door. But as we will discover in the life of Judas, when you cooperate with Satan, you pay dearly.
- Satan can influence the best of us. Being born-again doesn’t exempt you from Satan influencing you, but we don’t have to be influenced.
- If we were asked and transparent this morning, I think we all would have personal life examples of us giving into sin to only find it left us a mess.
- Sin will always cost us more than we wanted to pay, take us farther than we wanted to go and keep us longer than we wanted to stay.

### **II. It is possible to be near Christ, to associate with his followers, to even be engaged in ministry and still not be truly saved.**

- In verse three we are told that Judas **“being of the number of the twelve.”** Judas was not only one of the twelve, the inner circle of Jesus’ most intimate disciples, he was also able to work his way into a place of trust, because he ultimately became the treasurer of the group. He had given his life to follow Jesus, but he never gave Jesus his heart.

**John 12:6, “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.”**

- Judas is a tragic example of lost opportunity. He is the picture of wasted privilege. We have every reason to believe that Judas was given the same authority as the other men and that he preached the same message and performed the same miracles.
- It shows us how close a person can come to Kingdom of God and still be lost.

**Matthew 7:21-23, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that**

day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

“Judas was counted as a follower of Christ but was lost. He was baptized and yet he was lost. He preached the Gospel and yet was lost. He was trusted by all who knew him, [save Jesus], and yet he was lost! It is a terrible thing to go to Hell from anywhere, but what [sorrow] remorse must be the portion of those who go to Hell from the church.” -John R. Rice. “Judas Iscariot”

- It is a reminder to us today, that church attendance, church membership, even involvement in ministry is not assurance of being saved.
- Just because someone might have preached the word, cast out devils, or done wonderful works in Jesus’ name doesn’t mean they are his.

### **Characteristics of a follower of Jesus.**

#### **1. Love and concern for ALL others.**

Matthew 5:43-45, “Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.”

John 13:34-35, “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

1 John 4:20, “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?”

#### **Obedience (to God’s Word)**

John 14:15, “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”

1 John 2:4, “He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”

#### **2. Servants**

Mark 10:45, “For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

#### **3. Forgiving**

Mark 11:25, “And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”

#### **4. Humility**

Proverbs 11:2, “When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom.” NKJV

## 5. Peaceful

Hebrews 12:14, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:"

## 6. Faithful

## 7. Prayerful

## 8. Recognize their need for God's power to maintain any of Jesus' characteristics.

### III. To betray Jesus Judas had to literally climb over every obstacle that Jesus put in his way.

- Jesus knows that the deal has already been made to betray him, but he uses the Passover meal as one last chance to appeal for the soul of Judas. Repeatedly we can see how Jesus was reaching out to Judas.  
First, he put Judas in a place of honor at this banquet to show him that his love and forgiveness could still be extended to him. Judas reclined to at the left side of Jesus, one of the two places of honor at the table.
- Not only did he give Judas a place of honor but, as Jesus goes around the table washing each of the disciple's feet, he also washed Judas'.
- As he washed Peter's feet he said (**John 13:11**), "**For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.**" This was a loving arrow aimed at the conscience of Judas. His words perhaps caused Judas pain, but apparently not enough.
- As the meal proceeded John tells us in his account (**13:18**) that Jesus tells his disciples, "**I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.**"
- The expression "has lifted his heel against me" is describing "the lifting of a horse's hoof and the delivering a deadly kick."
- As Jesus dipped the bread in the bowl and offered it to Judas it is difficult not to see this as an offer that it is not too late yet, he does not have to go through with his betrayal. Judas took the bread but refused to turn back to the master.
- To turn our backs on Jesus, either to refuse his offer of forgiveness or to continue in a path of destruction, we must climb over every obstacle he places in our path.
- We must climb over the Bible which is God's recorded word. We must climb over the prayers and attempted intervention of good Christian people that God puts in our lives. We may turn our backs on Jesus, we may choose to ignore him and reject his forgiveness but will because we have chosen too.
- According to **Matthew's account (26:22)**, after Jesus has delivered his prediction of his betrayal the disciples were grieved, "**And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, 'Lord, is it I?'**" No one had the slightest inkling that it was Judas.
- **Read Luke 22:4-6**
- Judas apparently went straight from the Upper Room to the where the religious leadership were gathered. When he arrived there, he reported to them when and where they could find Jesus. He told them how they could apprehend Jesus under the cover of darkness and away from the press of the crowd.

### IV. Ultimately God will Give Us over to our Decisions.

- **Read John 13:27-28**, Jesus allows him to make his decision.

- **Read Luke 22:47-48**, Jesus was arrested and led away to trial where he had been condemned to die. Perhaps his intention was to force Jesus into some sort of action against the Romans. But whatever his plans were, they backfired and when Jesus was condemned to die.
- God will not force anyone to spend eternity in heaven. Each one of us have a choice to make.

**V. Remorse without repentance leads only to despair.**

- Feeling guilty, convicted must lead to repentance.
- **Matthew 27:3-5**
- He was in a hell of his own making, repeatedly hammered by his own mind for what he had done. Sin always, always brings guilt, and Judas' sin brought him unbearable misery.
- The King James Version here says that Judas "repented." Judas has a conscience. He recognized his sin.
- But his repentance was that of remorse, of despair, and of death. His remorse was boundless. But no amount of remorse can save anyone. Even if we realize our sin, our sorrow alone cannot redeem us, important as that sorrow is.
- Although he tried to undo what he had done, it was futile. Sadly, he did not seek the forgiveness of God. He did not cry out for mercy. He did not seek deliverance from the power of sin. Instead, he tried to fix it himself; ultimately, he tried to silence his conscience by taking his own life.
- I believe that Judas could have been saved had he repented and turned to Jesus.

**Conclusion**

Principles drawn from the life of Judas

1. Sin never delivers what it promises.
2. It is possible to be near Christ, to associate with his followers, to even be engaged in ministry and still not be truly saved.
3. To betray Jesus Judas had to climb over all the obstacles that Jesus put into his path.
4. Ultimately God will Give Us over to our Decisions
5. Remorse without repentance leads only to despair