

11/ 8/18

The Apostle Judas Iscariot

Benedict Arnold was a great military soldier, but he is not remembered for this, he is known as a treacherous traitor who attempted to sell out West Point to the British.

* So Judas Iscariot is known by all, as a betrayer and traitor to Jesus and without doubt as Benedict Arnold, he probably had great potential.

Remember the context of Matthew ten, is the sending out of the twelve to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, to preach, heal and cast out demons and Judas was one of these. Matt. 10:2-4

1. Jesus depended on these men to reach the world with the gospel and there would be none to take their place.
2. They were to be the foundation of the church and the one's responsible for the church to the present day, for we are the recipients of their obedience!
3. Judas stands out and apart from the other eleven apostles, he is the epitome of evil, second to Satan as they both betrayed the trust of their God and Creator.

The life of Judas will unfold for us by looking at him from three vantage points.

- I. The man Judas Iscariot.
- II. The apostle Judas Iscariot.
- III. The betrayer Judas Iscariot.

I. The man Judas Iscariot.

- A. His proper name Judas, was a common name.
 1. The name Judas is the Greek form of the Hebrew Judah, which was one of the sons of Jacob. Gen. 29:35
 - a. One of the other apostles was named Judas and John distinguishes him from Judas Iscariot. Jn. 14:22
 - b. The brother of our Lord. Matt. 13:55, Mk. 6:3
 - c. The Judas of Galilee, a Jewish leader who with a Pharisee named Zadok, promoted a rebellion against Roman authority. Acts 5:37
 - d. Judas Barsabas, a delegate from the church in Jerusalem to the Gentiles Christians of Antioch to deliver the letter of the church council, regarding their acceptance by faith. Acts 15:40-41
 2. The name is derived from the verb "to praise".
 - a. By implication, one who is the subject of praise.
 - b. By a strange paradox Judas is anything but one to be praised.
 - c. By his treacherous deed of betraying Christ, his name has become synonymous with shame and the most heinous sin of treacherous betrayal..

- d. By this sinful association, no one names their son Judas, not even the pagans.
 - e. By comparison to others named Judas, his name appears more than any other, twenty-two times in the New Testament.
- B.** His person is identified with a geographical location.
- 1. The word Iscariot is equivalent to “ish-Keioth”, which means “man of Kerioth.
 - 2. The town is identified in the South of Judea, about 23 miles south of Jerusalem, seven miles from Hebron is Kerioth Josh. 15:25
 - a. Judas was the only disciple and apostle that was not a Galilian.
 - b. Judas was of Judea, the place that considered themselves superior to the northern Jews.
 - c. Remember the young girls said to Peter, “Your speech betrays you”.
 - d. The heart of superiority is pride, which without doubt was the heart of Judas’s problem.
- C.** His paternal line is by his father.
- 1. His father is called the son of Simon. Jn. 6:71; 13:26
 - 2. His father probably was a devout Jew.
 - 3. His father without any doubt did all he could off for his son Judas Iscariot.

- 4. His father, like any other, had great expectations for his son.
- 5. His father could of never imagined the horrible deed that his son would commit, against the Son of God.
- 6. His father would be crushed for the deed, the ruin and lostness of his son, all his life.
- 7. His father would have to bear the reproach, along with the rest of the family for what Judas had done.
- 8. His father who was used to hearing people address Judas as “the son of Simon” would live to hear his son Judas called “the son of perdition”, by the very words of our Lord.
 - 1) While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. Jn. 17:12
 - 2) The Antichrist is the only other one called “son of perdition”. 2Thess. 2:3

Illustration

A pious church member, who thought himself to be a great Christian visited the Junior Department of the Sunday School. The Superintendent asked him to say a few words to the boys and girls. He stood pompously before them, and asked, “Why do you think people call me a Christians?”

There was an embarrassing silence, then a small voice from the back of the room said, “Because they don’t know you”. #4995

Application

1. How interesting that God has created every person in His own image and after His own likeness, with the potential bringing praise to God, but each person by their own choice chooses to seek out greatness for themselves, which often leads to their demise or the greatness of God’s, which leads to blessedness.

* This is a constant warning throughout the Scriptures to the believer, reminding him or her that it comes from the Lord. Ps. 75:6-7

2. Each person like Judas has been raised in a particular moral, ethical and cultural environment developing their world view, either godly or ungodly, but the new birth can alter our world view.

* That is why Paul the apostle warned the Corinthians not to compare themselves among themselves and by themselves, lest they be unwise. 2Cor. 10:12

3. How unjust it seems at times that good moral and caring parents, have to live with the shame and tragic consequences of their children, suffering deeply, as Simon the father of Judas.

* Paul tells the Corinthians, “Now for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children. And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more

abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.” 2Cor. 12:14-15

4. The principle of sowing and reaping is guaranteed as a certain, be it to the unbeliever or the believer.

* “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” Gal. 6:7-8

This was the man, Judas Iscariot!

II. The apostle Judas Iscariot.

A. Judas is listed as one of the twelve apostles of Jesus.

1. He is one of the four, in the last group of four. Matt. 10:4; Mk. 3:19; Lk. 6:16

a. Each group having a leader, the first in the list.

b. Each group being less intimate in their fellowship with Jesus.

c. Each group by design and purpose to serve God’s design in the gospel.

d. Each time Judas appears, he is last on the list.

e. Each time Judas is named, he is qualified as the one who betrayed Jesus.

2. He was chosen after an entire night in prayer. Lk. 6:12

- a. Jesus said, “Did I not choose you twelve and one of you is a devil?” Jn. 6:70
 - b. Judas had to of had by the very nature of Jesus choosing him, promise to be a John or Peter.
 - c. Judas like all the other eleven, I am certain, suffered the reproach of being identified with Christ, during the three years of ministry.
 - d. Judas like the other eleven was waiting for the Messiah and was convinced that He had arrived, in the person of Jesus.
3. He was a partaker of all that the other eleven apostles experienced.
- a. He preached the gospel and saw people come to God.
 - b. He prayed and people were healed.
 - c. He cast out demons and people were delivered.
 - d. He listened to the same sermons they did.
 - e. He heard the, lessons and admonishments in the teachings and parables.
 - 1) The unjust steward who did not considered his brother.
 - 2) The invitation to the wedding and the need of the prescribed garment.
 - 3) The lessons of money and greed, that one can not serve God and Mammon.

- 4) The rich young ruler who walked away sorrowful, due to the fact that he had many riches.
 - 5) The hypocrisy of the Pharisees and Scribes, etc.
 - 6) The lessons on pride versus humility.
 - * All of these had to of convicted Judas at heart, but not enough for him to repent from his sin!
3. He did not leave Jesus when all left Him. Jn. 6:66-71a-b
- a. John tells us that, “From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.” vs. 66
 - b. Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?” vs. 67
 - c. But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” vs. 68-69
 - d. Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?” He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. vs. 70-71a-b
 - e. Judas was attracted to Jesus for what he could get from Jesus, his commitment was not of a pure motive.

B. Judas was chosen by Jesus, knowing he would betray Him.

1. Jesus knew the prophecies that had to be fulfilled regarding Judas.
 - a. David declares, “Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.” Ps. 41:9
* The emphasis is on the closeness and intimacy of the betrayed with and effective guise!
 - b. David again says, “For it is not an enemy who reproaches me; Then I could bear it. Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me; Then I could hide from him. But it was you, a man my equal, My companion and my acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, And walked to the house of God in the throng....The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, But war was in his heart; His words were softer than oil, Yet they were drawn swords. Ps. 55:12-14, 21
* David’s life long councilor and friend Ahithophel sided with Absalom secretly in his overthrow, a type of Judas Iscariot but prophetic of Judas!
 - c. The prophet Zechariah says, “Then I said to them, “If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain.” So

they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.” Zech. 11:12

2. Jesus made many statements in view of these prophecies.
 - a. John by way of commentary tells us that it would be Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon would betray Jesus, being one of the twelve. Jn. 6:71
 - b. Jesus in the upper room said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you shall betray Me. Jn. 13:21
 - c. Jesus in His High Priestly prayer said, “While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled”. Jn. 17:12
- C.** Judas was not predestined to be lost nor was his free-will ever violated.
1. The Scriptures needed to be fulfilled and they would be, for God can not lie and He knows the end from the beginning, this is the divine side. Num. 23:19, Is. 46:10
 - a. The outstanding characteristic of God in the Scriptures, is that He tells us of things before they happen, so when they happen, we know He is God!
* God through Isaiah says, “Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them

take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me. Is. 45:21

- b.** The Scriptures contain Law, history, poetry and prophesy, which comprises twenty percent of the Scriptures.
 - * No other religion or group has prophesy as a chief mark of their faith and able to verify it!
- 2.** The man Judas Iscariot also had a free-will and God never violated it.
 - a.** For if God violated Judas free-will, then God would be unfair and unjust to hold Judas responsible for something he was forced to do, let alone punish him!
 - b.** Every person has the freedom of choice, to obey and be for God or disobey and be against God.
 - c.** What is certain is the God never predestined Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus.
- 3.** The man Judas will stand before God for his choice and deed.
 - a.** Jesus said, “But behold, the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table. And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!” Lk. 22:21-22

- b.** Matthew tells us, “It would of been better that man never of been born. Matt. 26:24
 - * Woe, in the Scriptures means judgment to come in the future.
- 4.** The beautiful combination of divine and human is presented and accepted without any question by Peter, pointing out the prophetic apostleship of Judas to be taken by Matthias. Acts 2:22-26
 - a.** Peter said, “And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, “Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry.” Acts 1:15-17; “Ps. 41:9”
 - b.** Peter then quotes the Psalms again, “For it is written in the book of Psalms: `Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it'; and, `Let another take his office.” Acts 1:20; “Ps. 69:25; 109:8”
 - c.** Peter then gives the requirement, “Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us,

one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection. And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place". And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

- b. Peter did not think God was unfair or unjust, nor did he think Judas was innocent of his betrayal, having no choice.

Illustration

There are certain things we can not do.
 Sow bad habits and reap good character.
 Sow jealousy and hatred and reap love and friendship.
 Sow wicked thoughts and reap a clean life.
 Sow wrong deeds and live righteously.
 Sow dishonesty and reap integrity.
 Sow deception and reap confidence.
 Sow neglect of the Lord's house and reap strength in temptation.
 Sow disobedience to the Lord and reap blessing.
 #5712

Application

1. The consistent principal regarding God's judgment of man is the measure of light a person has received, this is clearly seen in the parable of the faithful and evil servant, for to those who much is given, much is required of them. Lk. 12:48

- a. Jesus said, "The master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers." vs. 46
- b. "And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes." vs. 47
- c. "But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few." vs. 48

2. The clear reconciliation of predestination and free-will, shall be understood to it's full end only in eternity, but we should be clear that each of us are completely responsible for our choices before God.

- a. Samson chose to live for his flesh. Judges 13-16
- b. Saul chose to rule through his own wisdom. 1Sam. 13-30
- c. David chose to believe he could get away with his adulterous relation and murder. 2Sam. 11-12
- d. Hymenaeus and Alexander chose to reject the faith and suffered shipwreck and Paul delivered

them over to Satan, that they might not learn to blaspheme. 1Tim. 1:19-20

- e. Hymenaeus and Philetus chose to stray concerning the faith and were teaching the resurrection had taken place already. 2Tim. 3:17-18
- f. Demas chose to forsake Paul having loved this present world. 2Tim. 4:10

This was the apostle Judas Iscariot !

III. The betrayer Judas Iscariot.

- A. Judas was like the other eleven who wanted to be in authority and have prestige in the kingdom.
 1. They were always discussing who would be the greatest in the kingdom. Mk. 9:34; Lk. 22:24; Jn. 13:16
 2. They were Jews who were looking for the kingdom of God to arrive, “the age to come”, they had no room or openness about the “church age”.
 3. They would be patiently molded and transformed into the image of Jesus.
 4. They would be like wax that is melted under the sun but Judas would be clay that would be hardened by the same sun.
 5. The reason for Judas betrayal and his motivation is not revealed to us, though some have suggested that he became

frustrated and attempted to force Jesus to establish the kingdom by his betrayal, but this is speculation, contrary to all evidence.

- 6. Be it what it may, it was wrong and self-will that would damn him for eternity.
- 7. Jesus had already made His triumphal entry to Jerusalem and did not established the kingdom.

B. Judas revealed his god without realizing it. Jn. 12:1-7

1. The location is at Bethany at the house of Mary, Martha and Lazarus, six days before the Passover. vs. 1
2. The occasion was a supper for Jesus, Martha was serving and Lazarus sat with Jesus. vs. 2
3. Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped them with her hair. vs. 3
4. But Judas Iscariot who would betray Jesus said, “Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three-hundred denarii and given to the poor?” vs. 4-5
 - * One years wages!
 - a. Without realizing Judas was implying he was the most faithful of steward of the twelve.
 - b. Without thinking Judas also implied that Jesus was Himself a bad steward.
5. John in his commentary of the event tells us Judas did not say this because he cared for

the poor, but because he was a thief and had the money box: and he used to take what was put in it. vs. 6

6. Jesus rebuked Judas by commanding that they leave Mary alone, for she had done the deed in preparation for His burial. vs. 7
 - a. Judas had a god, it was money.
 - b. Judas was the treasurer.
 - c. Jesus had warned the twelve that where their treasure was there would their heart be also. Matt. 6:21
 - d. These are the only words of Judas that are recorded in the midst of the twelve, revealing his heart!
 - 1) Don't confuse this event with the one at the house of Simon the leper. Matt. 26:6-13; Mk. 14:3-9
 - 2) The same objection is given, but Judas is not identified!

C. Judas made a decision to betray Jesus.

1. The particular decision was at a point in time, in secret and it would be unable to be undone.
 - a. Both Matthew and Mark tell us the first meeting took place after the anointing at the house of Simon the leper. Matt. 26:14-16; Mk. 14:10-11
 - b. Luke also records this event of betrayal as Satan entered Judas. Lk 22:4-6

2. The particulars from the three synoptic gospels are incriminating. Matt. 26:16; Lk. 14:11, Lk.22:6
 - b. Judas went to the chief priest.
 - c. Judas asked them what they were willing to give him if he delivered Jesus to them and they counted out thirty pieces of silver.
 - * Today about ten to twenty dollars
 - d. Judas from that time sought opportunity to betray Jesus.
3. The particular sign Jesus gave was at the celebration of the Passover in the upper room. Jn. 13:1-2, 21-22, 26-30
 - a. The time is given, "Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end." vs. 1
 - b. The stage is set, "And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him. vs. 2
 - c. Jesus declared that one of them would betray him and the disciple looked to each other perplexed. vs. 21-22
 - c. Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He

- gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. vs. 26
- d. Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." vs. 27
 - e. But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him. vs. 28
 - f. For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, "Buy those things we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. vs. 29
 - g. Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night vs. 30
4. The particular sign given to identify Jesus was one of love. Matt. 26:48-49; Mk. 14:44-45; Lk. 22:47
- a. Luke tells us, "as Jesus was speaking to His disciples about rising up and praying, lest they enter into temptation, Judas came with the multitude, he drew near to Jesus and gave Him a kiss." Lk. 22:47
* The word for kiss means repeatedly kissed Him.
 - b. Jesus said to Judas, "Judas are you betraying Me with a kiss?" Lk. 22:48
* The sin of Judas was sin against love!
 - c. John tells us in detail about his sin of betrayal. Jn. 18:1-7

- 1) He betrayed the place of secret fellowship. Jn. 18:2
 - 2) He betrayed Jesus to the religious, military and political powers. Jn. 18:3
 - 3) He was given an opportunity to not give the sign of his betrayal, the kiss, by Jesus coming out to the crowd, identifying Himself. Jn. 18:4-7
- D. Judas was a hypocrite par excellence.**
1. Jesus declared that one of them would betray Him and all said, "Is it I", Judas had to of said that also, knowing he would. Mk. 14:19
 - a. Notice each knew they had the potential to betray Jesus, "Is it I"!
 - b. In Matthew Judas said to Jesus, "Rabbi, is it I?" and Jesus said, "You have said it". Matt. 26:25
 2. He was considered a formidable apostle by the others.
 3. He was made the treasury of the group.
 4. He had a different agenda for the kingdom, personal prosperity and power and he would not be moved.
 5. He consistently and progressively hardened his heart to the will and plan of God.
 6. He was not suspected by the others, at all.
 7. Judas yielded to the conformation of the world, while the other eleven yielded to the Lord's transformation.

* The same sun that melts the wax, hardens the clay!

E. Judas knew the magnitude of his crime by the taking of his own life.

1. He had remorse, rather than conviction.

Matt. 27:1-10

a. Judas seeing he was condemned for betraying innocent blood, he attempted to return the thirty pieces of silver and they told him, “What is that to us? You see to it!” vs. 1-4

b. Judas threw the money in the temple and departed to hang himself. vs. 5

* Acts gives the details of how the rope broke and he fell to his death, bursting open! Acts 1:16-18

c. The chief priest took the silver pieces and said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood.” vs. 6

d. They consulted together and bought a potter’s field to bury strangers, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah. vs. 7-10, Zech. 11:12-14

2. He went to man rather than God yet Jesus gave him many opportunities to repent.

a. The Lord rebuked him for his hypocrisy as he objected to the waste of the oil, loving money.

b. The Lord washed his feet and looked into his eyes.

c. The Lord said the one He gave the sop to would betray Him.

d. The Lord told Judas, “What you do, do quickly”.

e. The Lord said, “Do you betray Me with a kiss”, the last opportunity!

* He damned his own soul for eternity, rather than delight in the Eternal One, going to his own place.

Illustration

Sow a thought, reap a deed.

Sow a deed, reap a habit.

Sow a habit, reap a character.

Sow a character, reap a destiny.

Application

1. Every person starts off with great potential in the Lord if they will cultivate it properly and consistently.

a. By yielding to the will of God. Rom. 12:1-2

b. By obeying the truth of God’s word. Heb. 5:9

c. By walking in the Spirit. Eph. 5:18

2. Every person has a sin nature that is bent on sin and sin is not static but progressive.

a. If sin is not checked, it will grow.

* “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.”

Rom. 6:12

- b. If sin is not turned from, it will callous conscience and heart.
 - * Paul told Timothy, “Speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron”. 1Tim. 4:2
- c. If sin is not reckoned dead, it will destroy a person’s life. Gal. 5:16-17
 - * “He who is often rebuked, and hardens *his* neck, Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.” Prov. 29:1
- 3. Every person chooses to play the hypocrite or the example of Christ.
 - a. If you choose to be a hypocrite in the midst of God’s people, you will spend eternity with all the hypocrites.
 - * “So *are* the paths of all who forget God; And the hope of the hypocrite shall perish.” Job 8:13
 - b. If you choose to be an example of Christ, you will spend your life in peace and contentment.
 - * “But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.” Ja. 1:25
- 4. Every person can be a type of Judas.
 - a. Throwing away lost opportunity.
 - b. Ignoring and wasting high privilege.
 - c. Living for the love of money, even selling the Son of Man.
 - d. Abusing the patience of God.

- 1) Judas are not in the world but in the church!
- 2) “A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.” Prov. 18:1

This was the betrayer, Judas Iscariot!

Conclusion

Judas life has been unfolded before us from these three vantage points.

- I.** The man Judas Iscariot!
- II.** The apostle Judas Iscariot!
- III.** The betrayer Judas Iscariot!