

## Touched by Jesus- Judas Iscariot

Today we will look at a life that was profoundly transformed by his many encounters with Jesus, but he was not changed in the same way as so many others. This man after three years of walking with, listening to, and seeing all that Jesus said and did, after remaining with Him almost to the very end, chose to remain in his sin leading to a bitter self-destructive end of his life and eternity in hell. His name was Judas Iscariot. Let's consider His story.....

None of the gospels include any background or scene of Judas' calling as a disciple. We know some of the disciples vocations before becoming fishers of men: Andrew, Peter, James and John were fishermen. Matthew was a tax collector. We know the scenario of Philip and Nathanael's call to be disciples. But Judas only shows up in the list of the twelve disciples as recorded in the gospels.....

**12** During those days He went out to the mountain to pray and spent all night in prayer to God.

**13** When daylight came, He summoned His disciples, and He chose 12 of them—He also named them apostles: **14** Simon, whom He also named Peter,

and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; **15** Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; **16** Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. Luke 6:12-16 (HCSB)

Why did Jesus call Judas to be a disciple? Jesus of course knew that Judas was a thief and that his hard heart would never lead to saving faith. Jesus also knew that Judas would betray Him despite all the teaching, miracles, and even raising people from the dead that he witnessed. Jesus knew that Judas was the one who would perfectly fulfill the prophecies concerning His betrayal. I guess the old saying was true even then, “keep your friends close, but keep your enemies closer.”

In all four gospel accounts, throughout the three years Jesus' ministry, Judas' name only comes up once in John's gospel and that was when Jesus said “**“Didn't I choose you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is the Devil!”** **71** He was referring to Judas, Simon Iscariot's son.” Of course we know he was one of the disciples and went with them following Jesus wherever He went, just nothing significant happened to bring up his name. Then, the day before the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.....

**1** Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany where Lazarus was, the one Jesus had raised from the dead. **2** So they gave a dinner for Him there; Martha was serving them, and Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him. **3** Then Mary took a pound of fragrant oil—pure and expensive nard—anoined Jesus’ feet, and wiped His feet with her hair. So the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. **4** Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot (who was about to betray Him), said, **5** “Why wasn’t this fragrant oil sold for 300 denarii and given to the poor?” **6** He didn’t say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief. He was in charge of the money-bag and would steal part of what was put in it. **7** Jesus answered, **“Leave her alone; she has kept it for the day of My burial. **8** For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have Me.”** John 12:1-8 (HCSB)

This is the first glimpse we have into the corrupt character of Judas Iscariot. Jesus knew, but there is no indication that anyone else knew, that this man, this disciple of Jesus, was a thief and a traitor. He apparently went through all the motions of being a good disciple. No one but Jesus had a clue.

**1** The Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called Passover, was drawing near. **2** The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Him to death, because they were afraid of the people. **3** Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, who was numbered among the Twelve. **4** He went away and discussed with the chief priests and temple police how he could hand Him over to them. **5** They were glad and agreed to give him silver. **6** So he accepted [the offer] and started looking for a good opportunity to betray Him to them when the crowd was not present. Luke 22:1-6 (HCSB)

Satan himself entered, possessed Judas at this time. As far as we know Judas, prior to this time, had lived free from the habitation of Satan or his demons in his life. As far as we know, Judas was just a common, greedy thief. But note that this unrepentant sin ultimately led to his becoming one of the most notoriously evil people known on the planet. He is the one who betrayed Jesus and he did for thirty silver coins!

**7** Then the Day of Unleavened Bread came when the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. **8** Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, **“Go and prepare the Passover meal for us, so we can eat it.”** **9** “Where do You want us to prepare it?” they asked Him. **10** **“Listen,”** He said to them, **“when you’ve entered the city, a man carrying a water jug will meet you. Follow him into the house he enters. **11** Tell the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks you, ‘Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover with My disciples?’ ’ **12** Then he will show you a large, furnished room**

upstairs. Make the preparations there.” **13** So they went and found it just as He had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

**14** When the hour came, He reclined at the table, and the apostles with Him. **15** Then He said to them, “I have fervently desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. **16** For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” **17** Then He took a cup, and after giving thanks, He said, “Take this and share it among yourselves. **18** For I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” **19** And He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to them, and said, “This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.” **20** In the same way He also took the cup after supper and said, “This cup is the new covenant [established by] My blood; it is shed for you. **21** But look, the hand of the one betraying Me is at the table with Me! **22** For the Son of Man will go away as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!” **23** So they began to argue among themselves which of them it could be who was going to do this thing. Luke 22:7-23 (HCSB)

**21** When Jesus had said this, He was troubled in His spirit and testified, “ I assure you: One of you will betray Me!” **22** The disciples started looking at one another—uncertain which one He was speaking about. **23** One of His disciples, the one Jesus loved, was reclining close beside Jesus. **24** Simon Peter motioned to him to find out who it was He was talking about. **25** So he leaned back against Jesus and asked Him, “Lord, who is it?” **26** Jesus replied, “He’s the one I give the piece of bread to after I have dipped it.” When He had dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas, Simon Iscariot’s son.<sup>[12]</sup> **27** After [Judas ate] the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Therefore Jesus told him, “What you’re doing, do quickly.” **28** None of those reclining at the table knew why He told him this. **29** Since Judas kept the money-bag, some thought that Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the festival,” or that he should give something to the poor. **30** After receiving the piece of bread, he went out immediately. And it was night. John 13:21-30 (HCSB)

Judas, the thief, the betrayer, took part in that first communion, the symbols of the body and blood of Jesus. He would remember forever that he was a principle player in the horrific execution, Roman style, of the One he called master. It was at the immediate conclusion of the institution of the Lord’s Supper that Satan entered Judas the second time.

Judas left the room and went straight to his fellow conspirators, the priests and leaders of the people with the intention of leading them to the place where he knew Jesus would later be: A place away from the city and crowds, a place if intended solitude.

Jesus and the disciples did go to the garden to pray. That place where He often retreated for prayer and communion with the Father. He prayed. The disciples slept. Jesus prayed more fervently. The disciples slept again. And while He was scolding them.....

47 While He was still speaking, suddenly a mob was there, and one of the Twelve named Judas was leading them. He came near Jesus to kiss Him, 48 but Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?” Luke 22:47-48 (HCSB)

They arrested Jesus and took him to the home of Caiaphas the high priest where the cruel and brutal events of that long night began.

3 Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was full of remorse and returned the 30 pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders. 4 “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood,” he said. “What’s that to us?” they said. “See to it yourself!” 5 So he threw the silver into the sanctuary and departed. Then he went and hanged himself. Matt 27:3-5 (HCSB)

What a heart wrenching to man who experiencing so much of person and power of Jesus Christ yet rejected Him. He even partook of the symbolic, sacred event we call the Lord’s Supper. This man, no doubt, has spent the last nearly two thousand years with his master Satan. He was so close but so lost!

### **Touched by Jesus:**

**Be sure you’re a follower of Christ.** Judas was a fraud. He did all the things disciples do, but he had no relationship with Christ.

Just because you come to church, and go through all the motions of being Christian doesn’t mean you are one. (Just like living/sleeping in the dog house doesn’t make you a dog. It may just mean you’re in trouble with your wife.) You can fill out every card and form in this and every

**More than remorse.** Just feeling remorseful or guilty about your sin doesn’t mean you are saved. Judas was full of remorse but it did not lead to repentance and faith. Remorse is a good place to start but it is only a start. Remorse without repentance and faith will lead to all kinds self-destructive feelings and behavior and will not bring salvation.

**A “little” sin** can lead to a lot of trouble and not just in the world but spiritually and for all eternity. Judas started out just a common, unrepentant thief. He ended up betraying Jesus for a

few bucks and committing suicide. Your sin, even the little ones, will eventually guilt and destruction to you and bring much harm to those around you.

**Remember** I'm sure while Jesus was explaining the bread and the cup and how it was to remind them of His sacrifice, Judas was fidgeting and squirming. He just wanted to get out of there.

Don't just take the cracker and drink the juice this morning oblivious to the purpose. Remember what Jesus did for you! Remember His suffering, the whip, the thorns, the nails, the cross, the humiliation. Remember His agonizing death. He did it all for you.

### **Lord's Supper (Luke)**

**19** And He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

**20** In the same way He also took the cup after supper and said, "This cup is the new covenant [established by] My blood; it is shed for you.