

Judas, ^{“The Disciples”} the Iscariot



Judas is often represented in art by the money bag because of the thirty pieces of silver he received in exchange for betraying Christ.

When Christ told the disciples that one of them would betray him, they were all sorrowful according to our Scriptures, but one in particular asked again, “*Master, Is it I?*” Christ doesn’t answer him directly, but Judas knows in his heart that he has already betrayed his Savior and Lord because he had already arranged to meet with the soldiers of the High Priest Caiaphas who then turned Jesus over to Pontius Pilate’s soldiers. Certainly, we are not like Judas!

Some authorities feel that Judas was set up. Some feel that he wasn’t guilty of betraying Christ. He was just doing his job, and he really didn’t intend for

“Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said.” Matthew 26:25

the money to be spent for his betraying Christ with a kiss. Some authorities think that Christ allowed Judas to betray him so that the crucifixion and resurrection could be fulfilled. There is also the theory that Judas betrayed him because he saw his country being changed, and he was afraid that Christ would destroy it. Regardless, today we associate the name Judas with betrayal.

Can we all be betrayed with money. Christ refers to money many times in different ways. In the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant, money is a real issue. In 1 Timothy 6:10 we are told “*For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*” It doesn’t say the money is evil in and of itself. Money can do many good things.

Judas had been with Christ along with the other disciples. He had seen the blind healed and the lame walk. He had seen Lazarus raised from the dead. Shortly after Lazarus was raised from the dead, Judas was upset with Mary because she was wasting perfume when she put it on the feet of Christ.

According to John 12 there is another thought here. John indicates that the perfume was worth a year’s wages and that Judas when he said it should have been spent on the poor did not care about the

poor but that Judas was a thief and used to help himself to what was put into the treasury. At this time though Christ also reveals the future, but the disciples do not understand. Jesus said “*Leave her alone, it was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.*”

**“Not only did Judas sell Jesus for thirty pieces of silver; he also sold himself.”
George H. Morrison**

Sometimes we hear of people who will go out of their way just to return something they received by mistake. I have witnessed someone coming back into a store to acknowledge that he was not charged enough for the item when it was just a few cents.

Some scholars go so far as to think that when Judas left dinner the disciples probably thought he was going to get some food for the needy, not to betray his Lord.

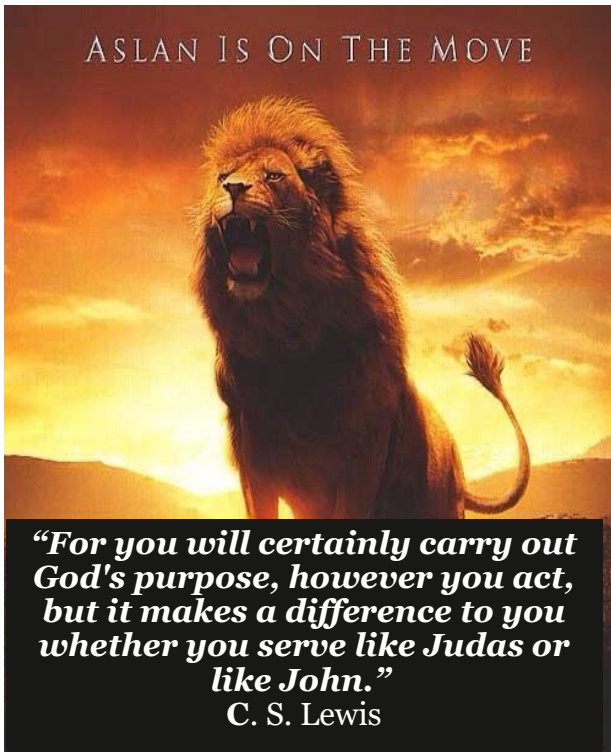
The chief priests knew what they were doing. They needed the right person and the right time to make sure that Christ had no more influence on the people.

We wouldn’t betray Christ. After all, Christ told the disciples that it would be better if that person who betrayed him that night had never been born.

I remember a quote that I once read that each of us has a little bit of Judas in us. Can that be true? Do we ever betray Christ?

It doesn't have to be in selling His identity for 30 pieces of silver. It can be in denial of knowing Christ. I remember another quote *"There but for the grace of God, go I."* It is only through that amazing grace that we are saved. We cannot do it on our own. But through prayer and faith, we are forgiven. Through His grace we can lose anger, anxiety, depression, insecurity, and fear.

My thoughts go to communion. As I was growing up, I was told that communion was a private time to ask for forgiveness and praise God for His grace and forgiveness. That did not mean that I should go out and sin again and ask for forgiveness at the next communion!!! But, it did mean that God's grace would forgive me many times over, I think some people say 70 times 7, but I have sinned many more times than that! I know that I



should be sorrowful for my sins just as the disciples were, and I know that God will forgive me. This is a wonderful promise available for each one of us. "My Task" was printed first approximately 1910-1920 and was first made popular by Tennessee Ernie Ford. The message is for each of us today. Judas pretended to do God's will, but he failed as we often do. Each of us wants to do God's work. Our humanness just gets in the way sometimes, but He is always there to forgive us and strengthen us if we ask.

My Task

*"To love someone more dearly ev'ry
day
To help a wand'ring child to find his
way
To ponder o'er a noble tho't and pray
And smile when evening falls, this is
my task.*

*To follow truth as blind me long for
light
To do my best from dawn of day till
night
To keep my heart fit for His holy
sight
And answer when He calls,
This is my task.*

*And then my Savior by and by to
meet
When faith hath made her task on
earth complete
And lay my homage at the Master's
feet
Within the jasper walls,
This crowns my task."*

by Maude L. Ray

Prayer: Dear Lord and Savior, we know that we sin. We know that we are tempted daily. Help us to know that not only can we overcome many of those temptations, but avoid some of them altogether if we only seek Your truth and follow the way You have prepared for us every day. The task is easy, and the reward is awesome. Thank You for Your guidance. Amen.

1. Do we, through amazing grace, have forgiveness and acceptance by Christ every hour, every day?
2. We have the assurance that we are indeed a part of His kingdom, and that we can be accepted if we ask. Why didn't Judas ask for this same forgiveness? Why do we hesitate at times?
3. Why did Christ forewarn him before he actually committed his crime? Are we ever forewarned of impending disaster, maybe not in that manner, but in making wrong choices in daily life?

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"Peter denied Jesus; Judas betrayed Jesus. The bad news was that both of them fell off the track and were both filled with regrets, remorse and anguish for their mischievous behaviors. However it was only Peter who chose to rise again after falling! Judas chose to end it with suicide! If you fall, you can rise again!" - Ayivor