

# Judas

“Lent, A Monologue”



*“No sooner were the words out of his mouth than a crowd showed up, Judas, the one from the Twelve, in the lead. He came right up to Jesus to kiss him. Jesus said, ‘Judas, you would betray the Son of Man with a kiss?’”*

Luke 22:47 & 48 THE MESSAGE

“Why? Why? Men will ask, and I don’t know the answer, or do I. I had been with Jesus. I had seen Him do miracles. I had been the one who wanted to help Him buy this kingdom He was preaching. I wanted to be a part of the new life that was going to be better than anything any of us had ever known.

“One time when Mary anointed the feet of Jesus with expensive aromatic oil, I scolded her for using something so expensive to wash feet. I said it could have been sold and the money

used to feed the poor, but I knew in my heart that it would bring as much as 300 pieces of silver, and I knew at that time that I was going to betray this man to the authorities in return for money. Money seemed to be my prime goal in life. It wasn’t the fault of the money, it was my overly zealous love of money. I thought it held all the answers. Yes, I sounded as though I was concerned for the poor, but my only concern was for myself.

“Just a few days after scolding Mary for using the expensive perfume on the feet of Christ, I had my chance. I knew that we were all going to meet for dinner. I had told the authorities that I would make sure there was an appropriate time for them to seize Jesus. I knew that we often went to pray in the garden, so putting all these things together, I knew the timing was right.

“As we were sitting at the dinner, Jesus told us that one of us would betray him. He knew and yet I still thought I could get away with it. Jesus said ‘The one to whom I give this crust of bread after I have dipped it will betray me.’ He handed it to me. I knew that he knew, but I was helpless. My greed was so great. Then in a very quiet voice he told me to go and do what I had to do and get it over with. If any of them did hear they would have thought that I was going to do something like buying food. They knew I was the treasurer, and everyone trusted me, except myself.

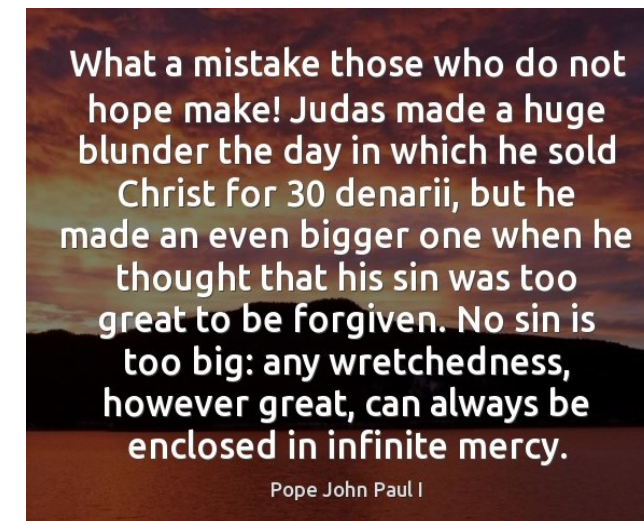
“The timing was perfect. I went to the authorities and led a gang of soldiers and police that had been sent by the high priests and Pharisees to the

Garden of Gethsemane where the followers of Christ went with him to pray. We all arrived with lanterns and torches and swords. We didn’t need any of those things.

“I went to Jesus and kissed him as I had told the authorities I would do so they knew they had the right man. “Jesus asked who we were looking for and the authorities said ‘*Jesus the Nazarene.*’ Jesus said he was the one and then they bound him and took him away. I stood out in the crowd as the one that had betrayed Jesus.

“I wanted to give the money back, but they wouldn’t take it. Sometimes we can’t undo what we have done. We need to think beforehand. I had committed an unpardonable sin as far as I was concerned. I was through.

“I thought I had no choice for what I would do next. I had been consumed by my own selfish greed. I had let that greed control my life. I had betrayed the one God who could have given me everything in life on earth and for eternity.”



Pope John Paul I

*“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.”*

1 Timothy 6:10

There has always been much speculation about Judas and what he did. Some feel he was destined to betray Christ and others feel that the power of Satan and his greed for money led him to do these acts. That is a decision that each of us may have, but we don't know for sure. There are many places in the Bible that one can read and form opinions, but the questions remains—Why?

We may ask why God allowed this to happen when Christ's ministry seemed to be just coming into power. Or was it? Perhaps what He did in those three short years was enough. After all, His ministry has spread to all the world.

As we study the Bible, we realize that it is filled with people who had the same problems we have today. It isn't the money. We all need money to survive and spread God's word to other people, but the love of money is our sin. The Bible only asks that we give back one tenth of what has been given to us. God realized we needed money. After all he created this whole world, not just parts of it!

Why, Judas? We don't know. According to some Scripture references some ideas have been told over the years. But remember that the Devil can also quote Scripture. He knows it well.

According to Matthew 27:5 he tried to give the money back. *“And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself.”*

Acts 1:17-18 tell us *“For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.”* Supposedly that field to this day is called the Field of Blood.

His story reminds us to guard against allowing something seemingly small gain strength over us and allow it to lead to wrong influences. These words are strong, but also a blessing to us who follow His word and know He loves us and will guide us and forgive our sins if we ask.

Why Judas? Why me? Why you? Why can we all be forgiven? Because He loves us.



Prayer: Amazing God. You only ask that we believe in You, and yet sometimes it is hard. We want to think that we know what is best. We want to think that we can do it by our self. Help us to know that with You all things are possible, and that without You, we are lost. Amen.

1. Why did Jesus pick Judas as one of the disciples? Why did he allow him to handle the money?
2. We can say that Satan was in his heart, but do we have to allow Satan into our hearts. Can we keep him out? How?
3. Are we ever tempted to be like Judas?
4. Did Judas have free will to make his choice? Do we have free will?
5. If we do not have free will are those that have not accepted Christ doomed?
6. Do you believe that Christ forgives your sins and loves you?

Judas: References to Judas are found in Matthew 26:14-47; Matthew 27:3; Mark 3:19; Mark 14:43; Luke 22:3-48; John 13:2-29; and John 18:2-5.

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God's love is like an ocean. You can see its beginning, but not its end.

Rick Warren