

# Judas

## “They were Called”



*“And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born. Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said.”* Matthew 26:23-25

“I am Judas. I did not take the challenge that these other men took. I didn’t understand a lot of things then and I wanted money to do what I wanted to do.

“Probably the one thing that tipped the scales for me was when Jesus was talking one day at the home of Simon who was a leper. While we were sitting at the table eating a woman came over and poured a bottle of very expensive perfume on His head. The aroma filled the whole room. Several of us were furious and said that was criminal. We thought that perfume could have been sold for a lot of money to feed the poor. But Jesus was touched by the woman’s love for Him, I guess. He said ‘Why are you giving this woman a hard time? She has just done something wonderfully significant for me. You will have the poor with you every day for the rest of your lives, but not me. What she did was to anoint me for burial, and you can be sure that wherever in the whole world the Message is preached, what she has just done is going to be remembered and admired.’ I don’t think any of us had any idea how soon His burial would be coming or what He meant by that statement.

“I went to the high priests and told them I knew how I could turn Jesus over to them. I had the perfect plan and the money involved really interested me. They offered me thirty pieces of silver and I took it. It was foolish, but I did it of my own free will. No one forced me to do it. I told them I would be able to tell them when it would be a good time, and then I went on as if nothing had happened so I didn’t look suspicious.

“All the disciples were concerned that we have a feast as usual for the Passover which was called the Days of Unleavened Bread. As we were all sitting around the table after sunset, Jesus said ‘One of you is going to hand me over to the conspirators’ Everyone was stunned except me and started asking themselves and the ones next to them if they were the guilty one. Then they said to Jesus ‘Is it I, Master?’ Jesus answered ‘the one who hands me over is someone I eat with daily, one who passes me food at the table. It would have been better for this man that he had never been born than to do this!’

“But, I had accepted the thirty pieces of silver and so I delivered on my promise to the authorities. I went with the gang that was following the orders of the high priest. I told the people I would kiss the one who was Jesus, the one who said He was the Messiah. As I did so, Jesus asked me why I had come. He already knew, but He wanted me to say it. I convicted myself right there. Jesus asked them why they had come at night when He was very visible during the day teaching. But, I had set the time and the place. I knew that Jesus would be there in the garden praying. At this the other disciples who were there ran. They were probably afraid I would accuse them of following Jesus also. I can’t blame anyone else. I did it myself in greed.

“After I betrayed Christ, I was so guilt ridden and felt such remorse that I took the money and tried to give it back to the chief priests and elders. They didn’t want the thirty pieces of silver. They had Jesus and that was all they wanted. I knew then that I had turned over an innocent man. I had betrayed Jesus. So I went out and hanged myself. I felt I had committed an unpardonable sin.”

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?

Judas: References to Judas and his part during the crucifixion are found mainly 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.