

## JUDAS, THE BETRAYER

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Matt 26:14-16 “Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests and said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver and from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.” KJV

Who was Judas? He was “one of the twelve.” He was an insider. He had been handpicked by Jesus. He was on the team. He had been chosen to help Jesus fulfill His mission, yet he betrayed the Lord. The One who had chosen him. The One who loved him like no other could ever love him.

I doubt if Judas stood out from the crowd. I’m sure he tried his best to blend in and be just “one of the boys.” He probably laughed at their jokes and told some of his own. I doubt if he was distant from the other disciples. He wanted to have friends and be accepted just like everyone else.

But unlike everyone else, Judas had a love deficiency. He didn’t love Jesus like the other disciples did. He resented Him. He resented His authority. His power. His ability to move people. Judas was jealous. He didn’t like all the attention that Jesus was getting. He didn’t like the way He did things. So he went to the chief priests and agreed to betray him.

Betrayal is such an ugly thing. When someone you trusted, lies on you, stabs you in the back, cheats on you, steals from you, slanders you or whatever they may do to betray you, it is never pretty and never painless.

What causes betrayal? Lack of love is one thing. It is obvious that Judas didn’t love Jesus like the other disciples loved Him. He may have been numbered with them, but he wasn’t truly one of them. He might have had religion but he didn’t have the proper relationship with the Lord that he should have had.

Why did Judas betray the Lord? The Bible says that “Satan entered into him.” The devil made him do it. How was this possible? Judas allowed something to get into his heart and into his spirit that opened him up to be used by the enemy.

We don’t hear many people talk about Judas today. His story isn’t a pleasant one. I don’t know any parents who have named their son Judas. Nobody wants to be associated with the name Judas.

Someone once said, “Satan’s best tools of destruction are not from outside the church; they are from within the church.”

I never want to be a Judas. A betrayer. I want to always love what God loves and cherish what He cherishes and live my life to build the church and never do anything to hurt it.