

They Had Been With Jesus
– Judas Iscariot –
pt 1 of 2

The Acts of Jesus

Luke 6:16b

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Background

- Judas, Gr. for the Hebrew name Judah, “praised”
- Iscariot, Gr. for the Hebrew, “man of Kerioth”
 - Father, Simon Iscariot (Jn 6:71; 13:2,26)
 - Kerioth, Moab (Jer 48:24, 41; Am 2:2)
 - Kerioth, Judah (Josh 15:25)
 - South of Hebron, in Idumea (Edom)
- Only disciple chosen who was not from Galilee
- He was entrusted with the finances of Jesus’ ministry. (Jn 13:29)
 - He used to sneak money out of the treasury for his own use. (Jn 12:6)
- There was no appearance of reason to distrust Judas. (Jn 13:21f.)
 - Only Jesus knew of the condition of Judas’ heart. (Jn 6:64, 70)

Searching for the Messiah

- Though there is no record of his call, he stayed with Jesus when many had left. (Jn 6:66-71)
- Like the others, he was anxious for the restoration of Israel; so much so that he never embraced Jesus' purpose.
 - He believed he was the Messiah who would drive out Rome;
 - But not that He was the Messiah who is the Son of God (Mt 16:16; Jn 6:68)

Free Choice or Divine Direction

- Jesus chose Judas (Jn 15:16; God's Sovereignty) and Judas chose to leave everything and follow Jesus (Mt 19:27; Judas' Free Choice)
- The OT prophesied that Jesus would be betrayed by a friend, and die for our sins (God's Sovereignty). (Ps 41:9; 55:12-14; Zech 11:12-13; cf., Jn 13:18; Mt 27:9f.)
- Judas chose to betray Jesus (Free Choice and the responsibility for the consequences). (Lk 22:22)
 - “Son of Man is going as it has been determined...”
 - “woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!”

No Contradiction in God

God's Sovereignty

- “[Jesus] delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God” (Ac 2:23)
- Predestined according to God's purpose, which He will accomplish (Ep 1:11)

Man's Responsibility

- “you nailed to a cross...and put to death” (Ac 2:23)
- God uses what man intended for evil to produce what He intends for good; the saving of many lives. (Gen 50:20)

Jesus' Grace Shed Upon Judas

- The parable of the unjust steward (Lk 16:1-13)
- The parable of the wedding garment (Mt 22:11-14)
- The warnings
 - against the love of money (Mt 6:19-34)
 - against greed (Lk 12:13-21)
 - against pride (Mt 23:1-12)
- Reminder of who chose whom (Jn 6:70)
- Promise of cleansing (Jn 13:18)

Useful to God, In Spite of His Choices

- Judas dwelled and died in “his own place,” the place of rejecting Jesus. (Ac 1:25)

Illustration

- Assyria wanted no part of God, yet God used them as His personal instrument. (Is 10:5ff.)
 - “her idols” (11a), **עֲצָב**, aw-tsawb, εἰδωλον, eidolon, *false god*.
 - “her images” (11b), **אֱלִיל**, el-eel, vain, useless image of god, whether the true or false god, a thing of naught, a vanity.
- When God was finished using Assyria, He would punish their arrogance. (Is 10:11-19)

How Judas Got There

- He expected the Lion of Judah (Rev 5:5) but saw only the Suffering Servant (Is 53).
- He was barely able to cover his avarice. (Jn 12:6)
[*an insatiable desire for wealth*]
 - He covered well enough, that the others even joined his expression of concern. (Mt 26:7f.)
- The Point of Decision...Repentance or Vengeance
 - Judas set up his betrayal, according to Zech 11:12f.
(Mt 26:14ff., Mk 14:10f.)

A Convincing Hypocrisy

- At the time, no one suspected Judas of “dipping his finger in the till” so to speak.
- At the time, no one suspected Judas of being able or willing to betray Jesus, even though Jesus specifically pointed him out to the rest of the disciples. (Jn 13:10-18)
 - Still not too late to repent. (Jn 13:20)
 - Still hidden in his hatred and anger (Jn 13:21-30), Jesus turned him over to Satan (13:27; cf., 1 Tim 1:20)