

JUDAS ISCARIOT
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INTRO: We listened to a message by Adrian Rogers because we had some personal concerns. The message was titled, "Why did Jesus Choose Judas? Why would He want a dirty double crosser to represent him in the ministry?" What concerned us was Rogers strong teaching on unconditional eternal security. He said that one reason people told him they do not believe in eternal security is because of Judas.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDHjCFZ_0Ys

I believe that this teaching is one of today's teachings in the church that has brought the fear of God down to where many professing Christians who live in ungodliness are assured that they are going to heaven. There are times when I think I might have spoken out against that doctrine too much, but when I see what is happening in churches all over, I cannot but conclude that this teaching is one of the big reasons for today's lukewarm Christianity and then I feel I must do whatever I can to combat that. But, besides that, I realized that I had never really studied the life of Judas, and I believe that his life is a warning to every true believer in Jesus Christ.

So, a question that is often asked is, "Can a believer lose his salvation?" I think that is not the real question. The real question is, "Can a believer forfeit or throw his salvation away?" And the answer is, "Yes!" One of the pieces of evidence for this is Judas.

The main passage he used was John 6:64 which says:

64 "But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.

From this verse he concluded that Jesus chose an unbeliever. Then in John 13:18-19 Jesus said:

18 *"I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.'*

19 *"Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He.*

Well, Rogers said there was a good answer as to why Jesus chose a dirty double-crosser. He did not give a good answer in my estimation. His answer is that Jesus chose Judas that the Scripture might be fulfilled that foretold that Judas would betray Him. Rogers did not deny the free will of Judas. Rogers said that this was a lesson on divine sovereignty, since verse 64 says that Jesus knew from the beginning who would betray him.

John 13:18 says:

18 *"I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.'*

So, according to Rogers, Jesus chose Judas in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled. According to Rogers, because of divine sovereignty this Scripture had to be fulfilled. Rogers was clear that Judas had a choice. He asked if God had crippled Judas so he had to do this and the answer is he did not. Then he said, "Where man rules God overrules. Did God know? Yes. Did Judas have a free choice? Yes. This is about human responsibility and divine sovereignty."

Some day I want to do a message on God's sovereignty and man's free will. The word "sovereign" is a very misunderstood and misused word in Reformed theology and it has affected many non-Reformed preachers and teachers as we see here.

Now let me ask this question: Does everything that God prophesied happen because He is sovereign, or does everything happen that God prophesied because He is omniscient and knows beforehand what man will do of His own free will? I am fully confident it is the latter. If it is the former, then Calvinism is right and if that is right, then God foreordained sin and He becomes a wicked God! So, whenever it says, "Now all this was done that it might be fulfilled..." it was done to prove, not God's sovereignty, but His omniscience.

So, this morning we want to go through the life of Judas.

I. THE ELECTION APOSTLESHIP

We go then to the first mention of Judas Iscariot. Turn to Mark 3. This event is recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. We'll read Mark 3:13-15:

13 And He went up on the mountain and called to Him those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him.

14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,

15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

Here we have Judas' election, not to salvation, but to the office of apostleship. Jesus chose 12 apostles, and Judas was one of those. The word to 'elect' simply means to choose. Here is the question: Did Jesus choose 12 believers or eleven believers and one unbeliever? Was Judas a believer before Jesus chose him to apostleship? Well, how does one become one of the elect to salvation? Any sinner that repents of their sins and puts their trust in Jesus Christ becomes one of God's elect! God has chosen such as would choose Him and they do this by repentance from sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

However, according to Rogers Judas never was saved. Now imagine this; Jesus chose Judas to be an apostle and He knew Judas was not saved! How does that sit with you? Did God or Jesus need to manipulate circumstances and choose one unbeliever so that Jesus would be crucified? Did Jesus need to choose a lost man so that He would betray Him in order to fulfill the OT prophecy? Do you not think there were any other ways man could have killed Him? With all the hatred of the Jews against Jesus, there are any number of ways Jesus could have been killed. Surely God did not need to choose a dirty double-crosser to make sure that Jesus would be crucified!

Psalm 41:9 says of Judas relationship with Jesus, that he was Jesus "own familiar friend." The ESV says Judas was Jesus' close friend. Young's literal translation says he was Jesus' ally. The RSV says he was His bosom friend. Do you think he was unsaved when Jesus chose him? Do you think Jesus would have chosen an dirty double crosser to be His bosom friend and then empowered him to heal sicknesses, preach the Gospel, and cast out demons? Does that not sound strange to your ears?

II. THE MALFUNCTION OF HIS FAITH

So having looked at Judas' election to apostleship, we want to now look at the malfunction of Judas' faith. John 6:70-71 is the second mention of Judas. It says:

70 Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?"

71 He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.

This is the passage mentioned by Adrian Rogers that he gave as evidence that Judas was never saved. It occurs just before this in John 6:64 and this verse says:

64 "But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.

Rogers takes verse 64 as evidence that Judas was never a believer. I believe Judas started out as a believer but then his faith malfunctioned. Now listen carefully; one is not saved forever because one has once truly believed. One is saved forever if one continues to truly believe. When the verb 'to believe' is used in connection with salvation it is mostly given in the present tense. That is because saving faith must be an ongoing faith.

In John 6, when Jesus speaks of His disciples, He is speaking of more than the twelve. To be a disciple means to be a learner. These were those who believed in Him and wanted to learn more from or about Him. Sooner or later, when we become learners or disciples of Jesus, our faith

gets tested and that is what we have in John 6. You see, the reason Jesus came is not primarily to save us from hell, it is primarily to save us from our sin! This always requires testing and the choice of whether we continue or not is ours.

Go back to John 6:54-56. Jesus said this:

54 *"Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.*

55 *"For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.*

56 *"He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.*

Well, a good number of the disciples that were following Him and believed in Him stopped believing right there. Why? They were offended in Jesus because of what he said in those verses. They had failed a simple test. Now look at verses 60-64:

60 *Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"*

61 *When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you?"*

62 *"What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before?"*

63 *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*

64 *"But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.*

When Jesus spoke of eating His flesh and drinking His blood, many were offended. Jesus knew there were many followers who believed only as long as things were going their way. With just a little test they stumble. So, in

verse 64 Jesus said, "There are some of you who do not believe."

There is something we need to learn here. When the word "to believe" is used in the NT with regard to salvation it is almost always in the present tense. The idea is that to believe in Jesus means to continue to believe in Jesus.

Turn to John 3:18 for a moment. It says this:

18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Let me quote from Boyce B. Blackwelder in his book, "Light from the Greek New Testament." He writes, "John 3:18 is illuminating: '*The one who continues trusting* (present participle) in him is not condemned; *the one who does not continue trusting* [same construction but with negative participle] *is already condemned* [perfect passive, *is in a state of condemnation*] because *he has not believed with abiding results* [pepisteuken, perfect tense, indicating permanent attitude of unbelief] in the name of the only Son of God.'" "

The faith that leads to final salvation must continue. In our passage, the verb "to believe" is present tense, negated by the negative word "not" as in John 3:18. It could well be translated, "There are some of you who are not continuing to believe." It is not that they had never believed. They had believed but their faith had malfunctioned. When He further says, "For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him" it could well be translated, "For Jesus knew from the beginning those who would not continue to believe and who would betray Him." So, the idea here is not that these disciples or Judas had never believed, it is that they had failed to continue to believe! Sin, if we let it go, will always cause unbelief.

So, verse 66 says:

66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

When it says many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more, it is because they no longer continued to believe in Jesus. They were offended. But Judas did not leave Jesus here, for though his faith had also malfunctioned, he did continue to walk with Jesus. Why? We will see later that he was getting something he treasured out of walking with Jesus. Somewhere between when Jesus chose Judas and here, Judas' faith had malfunctioned. It was not because of the hard saying of Jesus in our text that he no longer believed, but because of personal sin as we will see later.

III. THE REVELATION OF HIS HEART

For the third mention of Judas, we go to John 12. Here we come to an event that reveals what had happened to the heart of Judas. Jesus has just come from Jericho to Mary, Martha and Lazarus' home at Bethany. This was on Thursday, a week before Passover when He would be crucified. On Friday, the next evening, they made a special *shabat*, or Sabbath meal for Him. It says this in John 12:1-8:

1 Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead.

2 There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him.

3 Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

4 Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said,

5 "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?"

6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

7 *But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial.*

Now note that it says Judas' concern was not because he cared for the poor. Here we begin to get a revelation of his heart. Note also that he was a thief and then note that he used to take what was put in the offering box for Jesus' ministry. Here is his sin! Although it does not say so, I think Judas became very angry here and what upset him is that this fragrant oil could have been sold for a lot of money which would have gone into the box or bag from which he used to take money! How many have thrown their salvation away for money!

When we get saved the Lord sets about saving us from our sin nature. We all have a sin nature, but we do not all have trouble with the same sins. But no matter who we are, we all have a lot to be saved from in our sin nature. Judas needed saving from his desire for money, and maybe that is why the Lord allowed him to be the treasurer. And somewhere in the past he had been tempted to take money from the offering box. And then one day he took a little. Nothing bad happened and he began to take more. And now, when a lot of money could have been put in the box, he became upset because it had been "wasted", as far as he was concerned. I believe Judas became angry here and we will yet see what happened right after this that indicates that but John does not record it here.

Let me put in a warning here to every believer. We are all born with a sin nature and when we become Christians one of the things God begins to do is to save us from our sin nature. Let us say my weakness is anger. God wants to deliver me from my anger. That deliverance comes through sanctification, which is the biggest part of salvation. It is in sanctification that the rubber meets the road in all of our lives.

IV. THE INVASION OF HIS LIFE

We come to the fourth mention of Judas which I have called the invasion of Judas' life. That is because here Satan will begin to take over his life. This event took place in

Bethany when the costly ointment was poured on Jesus' head. John records this event in its chronological order. But Matthew, Mark and Luke do not record it until seven days later. When they do give it later it is to explain why Judas betrayed Jesus and I want you to see that in Matthew 26 so turn there and we'll read verses 1-5 and then skip down to verse 17:

In my calculations Jesus arrived at Bethany on the Thursday, a week before He was crucified. But in Matthew's Gospel we are now just two days before the Passover.

Verse 1:

1 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, that He said to His disciples,

2 "You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."

3 Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas,

4 and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him.

5 But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people."

In verses 6-16 Matthew goes back to the event at Bethany and records it here to show why Judas did what he did. We will look at that later and we go now to verse 17:

17 Now on the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?"

18 And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples."'"

After this they commemorated the Passover, and it is here that Judas went out to betray Jesus. But, Matthew, Mark, and Luke now go back a number of days earlier to record what happened at Bethany in order to show why Judas

betrayed Jesus, and we will now read that in verses 6-16 and remember this happened some days earlier:

6 *And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, (this was some days earlier)*

7 *a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table.*

8 *But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste?"*

9 *"For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor."*

10 *But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me.*

11 *"For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always.*

12 *"For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial.*

13 *"Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."*

Now John's Gospel does not tell us what follows here but the other Gospels do. When the fragrant oil had been "wasted" in the eyes of Judas, I believe Judas was very angry. Listen to what Matthew says happened next in verses 14-16:

14 *Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests*

15 *and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.*

16 *So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.*

This happened almost a week before the supper they had here. From that time until now Judas has been looking for

an opportunity to betray Jesus. When Judas' desire for the money was thwarted, he went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me?" And they said, "Thirty pieces of silver." Now, why was he so angry? You must see this. John told us that earlier in John 12:4-6:

4 Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said,

5 "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?"

6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

The KJV says Judas had the bag and *bare* what was put therein. The NKJV says "he used to take what was put in it." Other translations say he embezzled it, others that he stole from it, or that he helped himself to it. In the original, the verb is an imperfect tense. That means he continued to steal from the bag in the past. That is why the NKJV says that "...he used to take..." After Judas was in charge of the money given to the ministry of Christ, somewhere he had begun to take money out of it for himself and it had become a habit. This is the sin that led him into unbelief.

Think about it, somewhere after Jesus chose the twelve disciples Judas became the secretary for Jesus' ministry. This is how Jesus' ministry was financed. Whether Judas volunteered for this job or he was chosen for it we do not know. And then somewhere after that, temptation set in and he began to take from the offerings for his own use. The NKJV version translates the imperfect tense here as "...he used to take..." That is correct. It did not only happen once it became an ongoing practice and now a huge sum of money has slipped through his fingers and he is angry and from that time on he looked for an opportunity to betray Jesus. And now, at the Passover meal he is totally fed up.

At the Passover supper, which we call the "Last Supper" another event takes place that further infuriates Judas.

When the supper was over, but before Jesus washed the disciples' feet this is what John 13:1-2 says:

1 Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

2 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him,

Quite some time ago, in John 6, Jesus had said to the twelve, "One of you is a devil." Still later, Jesus had let a woman "waste" a lot of money worth of perfume. Judas had already been stealing from the purse for some time and now Jesus has simply and honestly said, "Judas, you are that devil that will betray me." And now Judas is finished. So, when the supper was over, the devil had been able to fully persuade Judas that the time had come to take action.

We go now to John 13:18:

18 "I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.'

19 "Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He.

20 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."

21 When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me."

22 Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke.

23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

24 Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke.

25 Then, leaning back on Jesus' breast, he said to Him, "Lord, who is it?"

26 Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.

27 Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."

28 But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him.

29 For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, "Buy those things we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor.

30 Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.

31 So, when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him.

Now notice what verse 27 says:

27 Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."

I believe Judas has been harboring anger. That is what happens when one is wrong. And now Jesus has called him the betrayer. Would one not think he would repent here? But it only deepened his anger. Somewhere he had stopped believing. That is what sin always does. It will affect one's faith.

After Satan entered Judas, he now fully dominates Judas life! What a sad story! There are only two people that Satan enters; they are Judas and the antichrist. Judas is called the son of perdition (John 17:12) and the antichrist is called the son of perdition (2 Thess. 2:3). Like the antichrist, Judas became, not demonized, but Satanized! Satan now dominates the life of Judas! How many believers have been deceived and followed in the path of Judas!

V. THE DESTRUCTION OF HIS SOUL

The fifth mention of Judas is in John 17. Turn there. Here we have the destruction of Judas' soul. It is Jesus' prayer just before He is crucified. We go to verses 9-12 and Jesus said this in His prayer:

9 *"I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.*

10 *"And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.*

11 *"Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.*

12 *"While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.*

We are most interested in verse 12. Jesus said, "Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled." The word translated "lost" is translated variously as "to perish" or "to be destroyed" or "to be lost". The word "lost" seems to be the best translation here.

But there is something very interesting about this verb in this passage. It is in the Greek middle voice. English has two voices, active and passive. The Greek has three voices, active, passive, and middle. If I say, "I hit you", the verb "hit" is active and I am doing the action. If I say, "You hit me", the verb hit is passive. The action is being done to me. The Greek middle is when I do something to myself. We would say it like this: "I hit myself." I both did the action and the action was upon myself. That is the voice of the verb "lost."

So, the translations translate this middle with the passive voice. The KJV and the NKJV say "none of them is lost". Some literal translations say, "none of them has perished."

Notice that it does not say that Jesus lost Judas. No, Judas lost himself.

I do not know of a more sobering warning to every believer than to make sure one never lets sin go without repentance taking place. If Judas had never stolen once, he would never have ended up lost. You will have heard the saying, "Sin will take you farther than you want to go, it will keep you longer than you want to stay, and it will cost you more than you want to pay."

So, let me now ask a question, from this verse: Why did Jesus not say, "Of those you gave me I kept eleven, but I lost one"? How does Jesus keep a believer, and if some are lost, they lose themselves?

To believe in Jesus is present tense believing. Jesus does not keep those who once believed. He keeps those who continue to believe. If we fail to continue to believe, He can no longer keep us. 1 Peter 1:5 says the believer is kept by the power of God... does anyone know the rest? We are kept by the power of God through faith! His power; our faith! Contrary to Calvinistic teaching, faith is never a gift to unbelievers! Any Calvinist who questions what I just said study that carefully! Here is what you will find; faith is not a gift it is a responsibility. Whenever faith is spoken of as a gift, it is always a gift to those who are already believers. It is never given as a gift to non-believers. As long as we continue to believe, the power of God will keep us!

So, what do we have so far? Judas became a believer in Jesus Christ. He became Jesus own familiar friend. Then he was chosen to Apostleship and after some time the money in the purse he had become responsible for became a temptation and then one day he failed to resist and he gave in to the temptation and he began to steal. Then he did it again, and eventually he became regular thief, and through these sins, unbelief set in and he opened the door to Satan. And then, when Satan needed him, he was a ready tool and Satan entered and invaded his life!

VI. THE DECEPTION OF HIS FRIEND

This brings us to the sixth mention of Judas and here we find Judas betrayal of his friend by deception. When the fragrant oil which was worth a lot of money had been wasted in Judas eyes, I believe he got angry and he went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Jesus to you?" And they gave him 30 pieces of silver. The night Judas betrayed Jesus was the night of the last supper. That night he told the chief priests where they would find Jesus with His disciples and he said, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him." Judas will kiss Jesus and act like he is His friend, but his message is, "This is the guy, take Him!" Yet, after Judas kissed Jesus, Jesus said, "Friend, why have you come?"

What a friend! But oh, Judas, "Sin is taking you farther than you want to go, it will keep you longer than you want to stay, and it will cost you more than you want to pay."

VII. THE TERMINATION OF HIS LIFE

We come then to the seventh and last mention of Judas and I have titled this point, "The Termination of His Life." We go to Matthew 27:1-5. We have come to the morning after the betrayal when it becomes evident Jesus will be killed:

1 When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death.

2 And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

3 Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!"

5 Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.

Do you remember when I mentioned the middle voice of the Greek language where Judas lost himself? Look now at verse 5. It says that Judas went and hanged himself. The verb

"hanged" is the middle voice. He did it to himself! He lost himself and he hung himself!

Oh, Judas! Sin has taken you farther than you intended to go, and it will keep you much longer than you want to stay, and it will cost you much more than you ever dreamt you would have to pay!

CONCL: And to conclude, let me ask you, did God foretell what Judas would do, and then to make that happen He had Jesus choose a disciple who is not saved and then He put him into Christian ministry, gave him the ability to heal sicknesses and diseases and cast out demons, and then He tempted him with the job of carrying the money bag, and then He condemned him to this horrible end, because he went astray in a ministry which he was not fit for and should not have been chosen for in the first place? With the venomous hatred of the Jewish leaders against Jesus, did God need to pick a dirty double crosser as a disciple so that Jesus would be crucified? Did God prophecy that because in His sovereignty He chose Judas for this? No, He foretold it because of His omniscience!

Now a final word; Jesus said in Mark 14:21:

21 "The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had never been born."

Judas is a warning for all who name the name of Christ. A story of the recent past that has gripped my soul is that of Ravi Zacharias! After he died, the sin he had lived in for over ten years came to light! Could it be that Jesus said it would be better for Judas if he had never been born because hell will be much worse for a person who has been saved and then throws his faith away for the pleasures of sin for a season.

Like Judas, here is a person who has once been enlightened by the truth and has tasted the heavenly gift, has been saved by the precious blood of Christ, has become partaker of the Holy Spirit, has tasted the good Word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then after all this he turns his back on the Lord by giving in to the temptation of stealing or the temptation of money, or any other temptation. And then, having

experienced all this he counts the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing and he insults the Spirit of grace!

Does not the Scripture say:

26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

How much worse do you think hell will be for someone who has known the Lord than someone who has never known the truth? Surely Judas is a warning to every blood bought Christian to never let sin go without repentance and confession!