

LESSON SIX

THE BETRAYAL

A. JUDAS ISCARIOT:

Judas Iscariot was one of the twelve disciples. His father was Simon Iscariot. His motive in following Jesus would seem to be of a mercenary nature expecting to gain a worldly advantage in the establishment of the kingdom.

When we study his character we are quite surprised that he could have been one of the twelve:

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| 1. He was greedy of gain and desirous of money | - Matthew 26:14-15. |
| 2. He was hypocritical | - John 12:5-6. |
| 3. He was a thief | - John 12:6. |
| 4. He was guilty of treachery - Mark 14:10 | - Luke 22:47-48. |

In spite of the above characteristics we must consider the fact that Judas felt genuine remorse (Matthew 27:3-4). This would tell us that everything about Judas was not all bad.

Finally, we should consider his title as given by our Lord in speaking of Judas. *"Those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled" (John 17:12).*

This title "son of perdition" is also given to Antichrist who is to be revealed (II Thessalonians 2:3).

The meaning of this title is literally, "man destined to be lost in eternal damnation.

It is quite significant that both Judas and the Antichrist are given this title revealing the awful final destiny of both of them, which was ordained by God.

B. THE ACT OF BETRAYAL:

Judas was full of criticism when Mary anointed the feet of Jesus with expensive perfume (John 12:1-8). He felt that what Mary did was a complete waste. Jesus defended Mary and rebuked Judas for his criticism.

Undoubtedly Judas had previously considered the thought of furthering his own ends by selling Jesus into the hands of His enemies. This rebuke from the Master apparently settled it. He would no longer postpone his dastardly act.

While the supper was in progress in the home of Simon the Sanhedrin was gathered in the palace of Caiphas, planning and plotting how they might kill Jesus. Judas left the supper and hastened to the palace arriving there just at the right moment. The hearts of these religious politicians were filled with wicked glee when they learned that one of the twelve would betray Jesus into their hands.

C. THE PRICE OF A SLAVE:

Judas quickly came to an agreement with the Sanhedrin although he undoubtedly was disappointed with what they offered him. Very likely his guilt and the knowledge of his treacherous act caused him to act in haste.

The amount agreed upon was the price of a slave, thirty pieces of silver. It is not possible to state exactly just what this would amount to in present day currency. After consulting two references on this matter the writer has concluded that this amount would be around twenty dollars (\$20.00).

It is difficult to understand just how Judas would be willing to sell our Lord for such a small sum.

D. THE ACT OF TREACHERY REVEALED:

During the time, which elapsed between the supper at Bethany and the Last Supper, Judas appeared to have concealed his treachery. However, during the supper Jesus revealed the fact that he was aware of it by saying, "*One of you shall betray me.*" Jesus showed that He knew who it was who would betray Him by handing a sop to Judas and telling him, "*That thou doest, do quickly.*" This certainly teaches that it is impossible to hide any wrong act from our Lord. He knows every sin whether small or great.

"*Satan entered into him*" (John 13:27). Some have tried to prove by this statement that at this point Judas became the Devil Incarnate. However, this is very doubtful. It seems that the meaning here is that Satan took complete control. In a similar manner Satan enters into men today and takes complete control. The soul of Judas who had been a disciple for three years now became completely possessed to do the will of Satan.

E. BETRAYED BY A KISS:

Judas knew the habits of our Lord. He knew that doubtless he would find Him in Gethsemane praying. It certainly showed just how low Judas had fallen that he would betray Jesus in the place of secret prayer. This was deliberately planned that He might be arrested in a quiet place in the middle of the night in order to avoid a tumult with the public.

Judas led the soldiers into the garden and then identified him with the sign, which had been prearranged. This sign was to be a kiss, which was probably the usual salutation of the disciples. This act of betrayal revealed once again just how low Judas had fallen.

F. THE PRICE OF BETRAYAL:

The true price of betrayal had not yet been paid. It was not the thirty pieces of silver but rather the price that Judas himself had to pay.

In the confusion of that night we do not know just what Judas did following the betrayal. However, soon came that awful sense of guilt, remorse and shame that always follow such acts of wickedness and shame. Judas was overcome with a sense of condemnation. He repented and he attempted to make restitution. He carried back the silver to the chief priests and confessed his sin. They refused to acknowledge any responsibility for his act and Judas threw the money upon the pavement of the Temple.

Judas then went out and committed suicide, hanging himself.

The priests purchased with the money the potter's field without the city as a burial-place for strangers. It is implied that the field was where Judas committed suicide and therefore was a double memorial of the betrayal. It was called, Aceldama, or the field of blood (Matthew 27:3-10 & Acts 1:18-19).

The following words sum up the tragic life of Judas with some awful, fearful meaning: *"That he might go to his own place"* (Acts 1:25).

LESSON SIX

SELF HELP TEST

- A. Write a character sketch of Judas Iscariot.
- B. For how much did Judas sell his Master?
- C. How much is this in present day currency?
- D. What did the price of betrayal actually cost Judas?
- E. Write an account of how Jesus revealed the identity of the one who would betray Him.
- F. Write an account of how Judas identified the Lord to his enemies.