**Judas, The Betrayer**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday December 30th, 2018

Text: Jn. 13:18-30

# Intro

1. No matter who we are in Christ, mature or new, raised in the church or converted to it later in life, old or young, we are all given an admonition to examine ourselves!
   1. I Cor. 10:12: “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.”
   2. The Israelites were God’s special people with a special relationship unlike any the world had seen, and yet they failed. They fell.
   3. Christians are now God’s special people, His children, His chosen people, His royal priests (I Pet. 2:9-10), and we (like the Jews) need to take heed!
2. How close to Jesus do we need to be to be safe from self-examination and from falling away?
   1. Can you imagine being associated with Jesus in the 1st century? (To hear Him speak and teach, and see the wonders He performed!?)
   2. Can you imagine being chosen to walk with Him, and to be His friend?
   3. If we were that close, certainly, we would never fall! (Right?)
3. There was a man that was close to Jesus, and yet so far away!
   1. Jn. 13:18-30: A study of Judas’ fall should cause us to pause and examine our lives and relationship to Christ!
4. Judas saw, heard, and touched Jesus; was His friend and apostle, and yet…he failed!
5. **Judas’ Freedom of Choice Made Him an Apostle**
6. Jn. 6:70-71: The Lord chose Judas to be one of the 12 apostles.
   1. Jesus’ choosing him didn’t take away his freedom of choice!
   2. Judas could have said, “No.” But he chose to follow after Jesus! (Lk. 6:13-16)
7. All of mankind has the choice to serve God or reject Him!
   1. Josh. 24:15: Joshua knew this and appealed to the people to choose wisely!
   2. I Chr. 28:8-9: David knew man has a choice to serve God or reject Him, and admonished the people and his son Solomon to seek after God!
8. As Judas chose to follow Christ, he also chose to betray Him (Jn. 12:4; 13:2).
   1. He was not controlled or made to stay with Christ.
   2. God had not forced him to become a child of Satan.
9. Judas had the same opportunities and privileges as the other apostles!
   1. He is listed with the apostles (Mt. 10:1-4; Mk. 3:14-19; Lk. 6:12-16).
   2. He had been given the same authority that the other apostles received (Mt. 10:1-6).
10. Judas was close to Christ and yet was far away - - What happened to Judas?
11. **Judas’ Greed Made Him a Thief**
12. Jn. 12:6: Greed became stronger in his heart than Christ and His teachings!
    1. Jn. 12:1-6: He had allowed greed to become so strong in his heart that he stole from the money box, which had been entrusted to him by the others.
    2. He had such character that the apostles trusted him with their pool of resources!
    3. His character was on the surface, for he was a thief inwardly, and gave in to the temptation to steal from his friends and close associates.
    4. He saw what Christ could do, and yet must not have believed with his whole heart, for he was stealing from the money box all the while being in the presence of Christ.
    5. Perhaps he thought he was getting away with it!
13. I Tim. 6:10: The love of money destroys many people, even many a good person.
14. Some people have given in to temptation and stolen from:
    1. Business treasuries
    2. Church treasuries
    3. Government treasuries
15. Jn. 5:42: Jesus told the religious leaders of His day they didn’t love God enough to accept the things He said.
    1. Judas heard the parables and teachings against covetousness and heard the condemnations against the Pharisees for their lack of love.
    2. Yet, he too suffered the same problem: He loved money more than God!
16. Judas was as close to Christ as the others yet his heart was far away!
17. **Judas’ Greed Made Him a Traitor**
18. Mt. 26:14-16; Lk. 22:1-6: Judas’ greed was no longer satisfied from the money box.
    1. He sought out the chief priests and asked what they would pay to betray Christ.
    2. Luke records they were glad at hearing this!
    3. Thirty pieces of silver became more important to him than his relationship with Jesus
19. Jesus had warned against covetousness and greed
    1. Mt. 6:19-33: Jesus talked about the right priorities in life, and to put God, His kingdom, and His righteousness first in one’s life!
    2. Lk. 12:15-21: Jesus gave a parable about greed and where it leads. The foolish rich farmer was called a “Fool" and was not saved by his vast possessions!
20. Judas heard these and more.
    1. He heard the lessons on the right priorities, the teachings against greed, the condemnation of the people for their hypocrisy and lip service.
    2. He was close to Jesus and the apostles, and was guilty of all these!
21. Jn. 13:25-30: On the surface he was above reproach.
    1. Jn. 13:21-24: The apostles wanted to know who it was who would betray Jesus.
    2. Jesus said He would dip bread and give it to the one responsible.
    3. He dipped it and gave it to Judas and said, “What you do, do quickly.”
    4. They still did not suspect Judas! Even after that identification, he was not suspected!
22. Judas was close to Christ but 30 pieces of silver meant more to him than that relationship!

**Conclusion**

1. All the more reason for disciples today to examine ourselves! (II Cor. 13:5)
2. Judas’ opportunity: Same as the other apostles.
3. Judas’ condemnation: He priced himself for thirty pieces of silver!
4. How often do we betray Jesus for other things? Robbing Him of our service and time with hobbies and sports, family and personal time, staying in on a day off (Sunday), etc.?
5. Judas’ change of heart: He felt “remorse” and gave back the 30 pieces of silver! (Mt. 27:3-4)
   1. His remorse was not godly sorrow but worldly sorrow that leads to death! – II Cor. 7:10
6. Judas’ fate: He didn’t change his heart with repentance (godly sorrow) – he committed suicide!
   1. Mt. 27:5-10: In his suicidal death he fulfilled prophecy.
7. The one who had been so close to Jesus transgressed and fell – Acts 1:16-20, 25
8. How close can one be to Jesus and be safe from falling?
   1. There is ***NO*** such place!
   2. We all have freedom of ***choice*** so life is a constant series of choices: must choose to serve God, else we choose to reject Him!
9. For this reason, we must examine ourselves and take heed lest we fall! (I Cor. 10:12; II Cor. 13:5)
10. We must resist temptation!
11. When we are weak and fall, we need to repent and come back to God! *(As Peter did – Lk. 22:32)*
12. Have you chosen to obey and serve Him today?
13. If not a Christian, you need to be! Repent & be baptized today!
14. If a Christian who has erred, what hinders you from repenting? Repent and be on the alert!
15. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!