

# Villains of the Bible - Judas Iscariot

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## 1. The Person: Judas Iscariot the most infamous traitor.

- a) We don't know the story of his calling.
- b) Judas saw the greatest life ever lived.
- c) Judas even experienced the power of God

## 2. The problem: Why would Judas betray Jesus?

- Judas' heart was not truly given to Jesus. John 12:1-6

John 12:4 But one of his disciples, **Judas Iscariot**, who was later to betray him, objected, 5 "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages (Greek *three hundred denarii*)" 6 He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. 7 Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. 8 For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

- Judas' greed gave the devil a foothold in his life.

John 13:2 The evening meal was being served, and the devil **had already prompted Judas** Iscariot, son of Simon, **to betray Jesus**. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

- Judas' plan was no surprise to Jesus.

John 13:18 "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill the scripture: 'He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.' 19 "I am telling you **now before it happens**, so that when it does happen **you will believe that I am He**.

John 13:26 Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. 27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. "What you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus told him, 28 but no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. 29 Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the Feast, or to give something to the poor. 30 As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

John 18:2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. 3 So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. 4 Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "**Whom do you seek?**" 5 They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. 6 When Jesus said to them, "I am he," **they drew back and fell to the ground**. 7 So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." 8 Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he.

- Judas' grief (feelings) led him to death not to repentance.

Matthew 27:3 When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was **seized with remorse** and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. 4 "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility." 5 So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

### 3. The Plan: How to avoid becoming a Judas.

- 1) Judas is the greatest example of opportunity lost.
- 2) Realize temptation is always irrational...Who would trade eternity for 3 months wages.
- 3) Guard you heart from greed. We count how much we give, God counts how much we sacrifice. Luke 12:15

#### **Application:**

- 1) Run to Jesus not from him. Acts 3:19
- 2) Guard what your heart loves. I Timothy 6:10