

Judas Iscariot: Here was a man who drew as close to the Savior as it is humanly possible to be. He enjoyed every privilege Christ affords. He spent three years with Jesus Christ, and he was intimately familiar with everything Jesus taught. Yet, he remained in unbelief and went into a hopeless eternity.

The Prophecies

Judas' role of betrayal of Christ was ordained before the foundation of the world and even prophesied in the Old Testament.

1. "And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel"
(**Genesis 3:15**).

- God ordained the **events** by which Christ would die, and yet Judas carried out his evil deed by his own choice.

2. **Psalm 41:9**

⁹Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted,
Who ate my bread,
Has lifted up *his* heel against me.

- The Lord Jesus quoted verse 9 in connection with Judas.
- One of the disciples who had lived with the Lord Jesus, traveled with Him, saw His miracles, heard His incomparable teaching, and witnessed the miracle of a sinless life—one whom Jesus could call “my familiar friend ... who ate my bread”
- Knowing in advance that Judas would betray Him, the Lord had never trusted him, so He simply said, “He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me” (**John 13:18**).

3. **Zechariah 11:12**

¹² Then I said to them, “If it is agreeable to you, give *me* my wages; and if not, refrain.” So they weighed out for my wages thirty *pieces* of silver.

- Zechariah carried on the *drama* by symbolically picturing Jesus asking those He came to shepherd what they felt He was worth to them. In a mocking response, the leaders offered 30 silver pieces which was the amount of compensation paid for a slave gored by an ox (**Exodus 21:32**). This is exactly what Judas Iscariot was paid to betray Christ Jesus (**Matthew 26:14–16**). The Jews of Jesus' day who offered that amount were saying He was worth no more than a common slave.

Zechariah 11:13

¹³ And the Lord said to me, “Throw it to the potter”—that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty *pieces* of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter.

- The prophet further depicts this payment cast **to the potter**, a prophecy of what Judas would do after his betrayal of the Lord.

The Twelve Apostles

¹³ And He went up on the mountain and called to *Him* those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. ¹⁴ Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out **to preach**, ¹⁵ and to have **power to heal** sicknesses and to **cast out demons (Mark 3:13-15)**.

- The call of Judas is not recorded in Scripture. However, there was a threefold purpose behind the call of the twelve: (1) **that they might be with Him**; (2) **that He might send them out to preach**; and (3) that they **might have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons**.

¹³ He called His disciples to *Himself*; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named **apostles**: ¹⁴ Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; ¹⁵ Matthew and Thomas; James the *son* of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; ¹⁶ Judas *the son* of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor **(Luke 6:13-16)**.

- They had all chosen Jesus, but He chose them first. “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you” **(John 15:16)**.
- Judas Iscariot was as common as the rest, without earthly credentials and without any characteristics that made him stand out from the group. While they were increasing in faith as sons of God, he was becoming more and more a child of the Devil.

The Anointing

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 **(John 12:3)**.

- The act symbolized Mary’s humble devotion and love for Jesus.

The Miser

⁴But 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?" (**John 12:4-5**)

- A *miser* is described as a mean grasping person; one who is extremely stingy with money.
- Since one denarius was a day's wage given to common laborers, 300 was equivalent to a year's wages. Here the flesh is seen intruding into this most sacred of occasions. The **one** who was about to **betray** his Lord could not stand to see precious **oil** used in this way. **Judas** did not consider Jesus to be worth **three hundred denarii**.
- The contrast: Jesus is anointed with overwhelming love by Mary and overwhelming hate by Judas at the same time.

The Thief

⁶This 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 (**John 12:6**).

- Judas' commitment to the poor was really a front for his own excessive desire for wealth or gain. Because he was the ministry's treasurer, he was able to secretly pilfer the group treasury.

The Lost

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 (**John 17:12**).

- **While He was with** the disciples, the Savior **kept them in** the Father's **name**, that is, by His power and authority, and true to Him. "**None of them is lost,**" said Jesus, "**except the son of perdition,**" that is, Judas.
- The title "**the son of perdition**" identifies Judas by pointing to his destiny, i.e., eternal damnation. The defection of Judas was not a failure on Jesus part, but was foreseen and foreordained in Scripture. Judas had every opportunity to turn from his sin – as much opportunity as was ever afforded anyone. He heard every lesson Jesus taught during His ministry. Many of those lessons applied directly to Judas:

The message of the wedding garment. ¹¹ "But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding

garment. ¹² So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ “For many are called, but few *are* chosen” (**Matthew 22:11-14**).

- All without exception were invited to the banquet. Among **the guests**, however, was one **who did not have a wedding garment**. The wedding garments were supplied by the king himself. This man accepted the king’s invitation, but on his own terms—which the king found improper.
- While Judas accepted the call from Christ, he was never drawn to the Person of Christ.

Preaching against the love of money. “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon” (**Matthew 6:24**).

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. (**John 12:6; Matthew 26:14-15**).

- Judas stole from the money box and accepted money for his betrayal.

Preaching against greed. “¹⁹ Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (**Matthew 6:19-21**).

Preaching against pride. ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ ¹³ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a

sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Luke 18:10-14).

The parable of the unjust steward. ¹He also said to His disciples: “There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was **wasting** his goods. ²So he called him and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, **for you can no longer be steward**’ (Luke 16:1-2).

- A **steward** is one who is entrusted with the management of another person’s property. This steward was guilty of **wasting** the resources the rich man made available to him.
- According to **Mark 3:13-15**, Judas and the other apostles received the supernatural power **to heal sicknesses** and **to cast out demons**. In a similar way (**wasting** the resources), when Judas committed suicide he failed to utilize the power of the resources which God had gifted him to its full potential.

The Plot to Kill Jesus

¹⁵“What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?” And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him (**Matthew 26:15-16**).

¹Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover. ²And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people. ³Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. ⁴So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. ⁵And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. ⁶So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude (**Luke 22:1-6**).

- The plot to kill Jesus Christ was not a sudden impulse from Judas nor Israel’s religious leaders, it was premeditated. Both planned and waited for the right opportunity.
- **The chief priests and scribes** were ceaselessly plotting **how they might kill** the Lord Jesus, but they realized that they must do it without

causing an uprising, because **they feared the people**, and knew that many still held Jesus in high esteem.

- Judas met **with the chief priests and the commanders of the Jewish temple guard**. He had carefully worked out a plan by which he could **betray** Jesus into their hands without causing a riot.
- The plan was accepted and they **agreed to give him money**—thirty pieces of silver.

The Betrayal

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.’ ¹⁹Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am *He* (**John 13:18-19**).

⁴³And immediately, while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. ⁴⁴Now His betrayer had given them a signal, saying, “**Whomever I kiss, He is the One**; seize Him and lead *Him* away safely.” ⁴⁵As soon as he had come, immediately he went up to Him and said to Him, “Rabbi, Rabbi!” and kissed Him. ⁴⁶Then they laid their hands on Him and took Him (**Mark 14:43-46**).

The Death of Judas Iscariot

³Then 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, ⁴saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” And they said, “What *is that* to us? You see *to it!*” ⁵Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself (**Matthew 27:3-5**).

- The money, which had been so important to Judas before, now did not matter. **Realizing his sin in *betraying innocent blood***, Judas offered the money back chief priests and elders. He was **remorseful**, but this was not a godly repentance that leads to salvation. He was **sorry** not because he sinned against Christ, but because his sin did not satisfy him the way he had hoped. In desperation Judas **threw down the pieces of silver in the temple** where only the priests could go, then went out and committed suicide.

The Relationship

What was Judas' relationship like with Jesus Christ and the other eleven apostles before his suicide?

- 1) With the exception of Judas, **they were all Galileans** and the Galileans were considered to be low-class, rural, uneducated people. Some of them were also relatives and friends, but the apostles knew nothing about Judas' background which he used to his advantage.
- 2) Judas was a **thief**. Jesus chose Judas as treasurer for the Twelve. None of the eleven apostles demonstrated any awareness that Judas was stealing from the money box for three years.
- 3) Judas was a **hypocrite**. A hypocrite can be described as one who is capable of disguising his true emotions. "**Whomever I kiss, He is the One.**" That was the prearranged signal that Judas made with his co-conspirators. He betrayed Christ with a kiss. The hatefulness of his crime reached its limit when he delivered Christ to His enemies with the symbol of affection. It was not until this point of the betrayal that the other apostles realized that Judas was a traitor.
- 4) Judas was the recipient of divine patience. While Jesus knew all along that Judas would be the one to betray Him, for three years Jesus showed patience and love while He was with him. It was patience and love which Judas refused to reciprocate.

Question: Is the passage of Scripture, **Matthew 27:3-10**, considered to be a statement of true repentance for Judas Iscariot?

- Definition: **repentance** – It involves a sincere turning from sin to serve God and includes sorrow for, and confession of, sin and where possible restitution.
- **A sincere turning from sin to serve God:** Example. At the conclusion of Peter's sermon he provided an application for repentance.

³⁶“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

³⁷Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?” ³⁸Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of

sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call” (**Acts 2:36-40**).

- **Sorrow. V. 3** did not say that Judas expressed *sorrow* (regret) but that he was *remorseful* which means there was *a gnawing distress arising from a sense of guilt for past wrongs*.
- **Confession of sin:** Example from the parable of the lost son.
¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, ¹⁹and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants” (**Luke 15:18-19**).
- **Making appropriate restitution:** Example, a radical change in the life of a tax collector.
⁸Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.” ⁹And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; ¹⁰for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost” (**Luke 19:8-10**).
- So far, I have only found one New King James Version of the Bible with the passage heading that refers to repentance of Judas in this passage.
 1. **The Open Bible:** Judas Repents
 2. **The Charles Stanley Life Principles Bible:** Judas Hangs Himself
 3. **The Thompson Chain Reference Study Bible:** Judas Hangs Himself
 4. **(OLD) King James Version:** The death of Judas Iscariot
- **Other Bibles**
 1. **New American Standard:** Judas’ Remorse
 2. **The New Scofield Reference Edition:** Judas’ unavailing remorse

3. **The New International Version:** Judas Hangs Himself
4. **The Holman Christian Study Bible:** Judas Hangs Himself
5. **Christian Standard Bible:** Judas Hangs Himself
6. **English Standard Version:** Judas Hangs Himself

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