

JUDAS, THE SON OF PERDITION

BIBLE TEXT : Matthew 26:1-5, 14-16; Luke 22:3-6; John 12:4-6; 17:12

LESSON 249 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!" (Matthew 18:7).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Matthew 26:1-5

¹ And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples,

² Ye know that after two days is *the feast of the passover*, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.

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

⁴ And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill *him*.

⁵ But they said, Not on the feast *day*, lest there be an uproar among the people.

Matthew 26:14-16

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

¹⁵ And said *unto them*, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

¹⁶ And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

Luke 22:3-6

³ Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.

⁴ And he went his way, and communed with the chief

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I The Man, Judas Iscariot

¹ He was chosen and ordained as one of the 12 disciples and also as an Apostle, Matthew 26:14;

Matthew 10:1-5

¹ And when he had called unto *him* his twelve disciples, he gave them power *against* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

² Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James *the son of* Zebedee, and John his brother;

³ Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James *the son of* Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

⁴ Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

Matthew 26:14

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

Mark 3:13-19

¹³ And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth *unto him* whom he would: and they came unto 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:

¹⁶ And Simon he surnamed Peter;

¹⁷ And James *the son of* Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder:

¹⁸ And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James *the son of* Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite,

¹⁹ And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house.

Luke 6:13-16

¹³ And when it was day, he called *unto him* his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he 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 Zelotes,

¹⁶ And Judas *the brother of* James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.

Acts 1:17

¹⁷ For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.

Acts 1:25

²⁵ That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

² He failed to continue in the way of righteousness, became covetous, and also a thief, no doubt having carnal aspirations concerning the supposed earthly kingdom of Christ, John 12:4-6

II The Betrayal and the Immediately Preceding Events

¹ Old Testament prophets spoke of Judas' act,

Psalms 109:8

⁸ Let his days be few; *and* let another take his office.

Acts 1:16-17

priests and captains, how he might betray him unto them.

⁵ And they were glad, and covenanted to give him money.

⁶ And he promised, and sought opportunity to betray him unto them in the absence of the multitude.

John 12:4-6

⁴ Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, which should betray him,

⁵ Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, 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 bag, and bare what was put therein.

John 17:12

¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: 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.

¹⁶ Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

¹⁷ For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.

Zechariah 11:12-13

¹² And I said unto them, If ye think good, give *me* my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty *pieces* of silver.

¹³ And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty *pieces* of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD.

2 Jesus spoke prophetically of Judas' act, calling him a devil and the son of perdition, John 17:12

John 6:70-71

⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?

⁷¹ He spake of Judas Iscariot *the son* of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.

John 13:18-30

¹⁸ I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.

¹⁹ Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am *he*.

²⁰ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

²¹ When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

²² Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake.

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

²⁴ Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake.

²⁵ He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it?

²⁶ Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped *it*. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave *it* to Judas Iscariot, *the son* of Simon.

²⁷ And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

²⁸ Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him.

²⁹ For some of *them* thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy *those things* that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor.

³⁰ He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night.

John 17:12

¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: 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.

3 Nevertheless, Judas acted through his own wilful choice, Matthew 26:1-5, 14-16; Luke 22:3, 6;

Mark 14:10-11

¹⁰ And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them.

¹¹ And when they heard *it*, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him.

Zechariah 11:12-13

¹² And I said unto them, If ye think good, give *me* my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty *pieces* of silver.

¹³ And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty *pieces* of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD.

4 Judas made his choice and then Satan entered into him, Luke 22:3

John 13:2

² And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, to betray him;

John 13:27

²⁷ And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

5 As the son of perdition — no longer the son of God — he could easily betray the Son of God with a kiss,

Mark 14:43-45

⁴³ And immediately, while he yet spake, cometh Judas, one of the twelve, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.

⁴⁴ And he that betrayed him had given them a token, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he; take him, and lead *him* away safely.

⁴⁵ And as soon as he was come, he goeth straightway to him, and saith, Master, master; and kissed him.

Luke 22:47-48

⁴⁷ And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him.

⁴⁸ But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?

John 18:2-5

² And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples.

³ Judas then, having received a band of *men* and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons.

⁴ Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye?

⁵ They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am *he*. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them.

III Judas' Tragic End

1 Realizing the full effects of his deed for the first time, Judas was filled with remorse, but devoid of repentance toward God,

Matthew 27:3-5

³ Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

⁴ Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What *is that* to us? see thou *to that*.

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

Zechariah 11:12-13

¹² And I said unto them, If ye think good, give *me* my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty *pieces* of silver.

¹³ And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty *pieces* of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD.

Psalms 94:20-23

²⁰ Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law?

²¹ They gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous, and condemn the innocent blood.

²² But the LORD is my defence; and my God *is* the rock of my refuge.

²³ And he shall bring upon them their own iniquity, and shall cut them off in their own wickedness; *yea*, the LORD our God shall cut them off.

2 He committed suicide,

Matthew 27:5

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

Acts 1:18-19

¹⁸ Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.

¹⁹ And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood.

3 The money he had accepted, and then returned, was used to buy a potter's field,

Matthew 27:6-10

⁶ And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.

⁷ And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.

⁸ Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.

⁹ Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value;

¹⁰ And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me.

Zechariah 11:13

¹³ And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prized at of them. And I took the thirty *pieces* of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD.

NOTES:

An Example of Infamy

Of all the examples of infamy and treason that are preserved for us in sacred and secular history there is none that can possibly be worse than that of Judas Iscariot. His name will toe in that classification forever, for he conceived and perpetrated the most heartless betrayal this world could ever see. He aided and made possible the seizure of the Son of God by the enemies of righteousness through an insincere and hypocritical kiss that is now known as the "Judas kiss." Even the ranks of infidelity refer to his action with scorn and contempt. And the thing that makes this so much worse is that this man was once a chosen disciple and Apostle of the Son of God!

We are not told in Scripture of the specific time or place where Judas prayed the penitent's prayer and obtained the forgiveness of sins that every man, woman, and child must receive if they enter Heaven. But we have every reason to believe that he was a partaker of that salvation, for God does not send out unbelievers to proclaim His story of salvation.

Judas was one of those who were sought out and then sent out, two by two, to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom (**Mark 6:7** ⁷ And he called *unto him* the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;). He was one of those to whom Christ gave a commission, and to whom He gave power to carry out that commission. These disciples were, in addition, to "heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils"; and Christ assured them that they would be sustained during their labors for Him. Judas was one of those whom Jesus sent out as "sheep in the midst of wolves."

Judas was one of those of whom Jesus said that the Spirit of the Father would speak in. He was one of those who Christ said would be hated of all men for His sake, and that it would be his privilege also to endure persecution for the cause of Christ. He was one of those of whom Christ was speaking when He said that they, as disciples and servants, would not be greater than He, their Master and Lord.

Judas was one of those whom Christ contrasted with the servants of the kingdom of Beelzebub. He was one of those who chose to take up the cross and follow Jesus. He was also one of the number who returned to Jesus and told Him "all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught," and then went with Him into a place of solitude that they might rest their bodies after their mission for Him. (**Matthew 10:1-42** ¹ And when he had called *unto him* his twelve disciples, he gave them

power *against* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. ² Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him. ⁵ These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not: ⁶ But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. ⁸ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. ⁹ Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, ¹⁰ Nor scrip for *your* journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat. ¹¹ And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. ¹² And when ye come into an house, salute it. ¹³ And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. ¹⁵ Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city. ¹⁶ Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. ¹⁷ But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; ¹⁸ And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹ But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. ²⁰ For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. ²¹ And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against *their* parents, and cause them to be put to death. ²² And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. ²³ But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come. ²⁴ The disciple is not above *his* master, nor the servant above his lord. ²⁵ It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more *shall they call* them of his household? ²⁶ Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. ²⁷ What I tell you in darkness, *that* speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, *that* preach ye upon the housetops. ²⁸ And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. ³⁰ But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows. ³² Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. ³³ But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. ³⁴ Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. ³⁶ And a man's foes *shall be* they of his own household. ³⁷ He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. ³⁹ He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. ⁴⁰ He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. ⁴¹ He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. ⁴² And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold *water* only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward. **Mark 6:7-13** ⁷ And he called *unto him* the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits; ⁸ And commanded them that they should take nothing for *their* journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in *their* purse: ⁹ But *be* shod with

sandals; and not put on two coats. ¹⁰ And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place. ¹¹ And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city. ¹² And they went out, and preached that men should repent. ¹³ And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them. **Mark 6:30-32** ³⁰ And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught. ³¹ And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. ³² And they departed into a desert place by ship privately.)

Can anyone rightly say that such a man was a sinner all the time that Jesus used him in the work of righteousness? Can any say that God, who knows the end from the beginning, disregarded His specific commandment that no novice, unrighteous, or unholy person should be used in the work of the ministry, and used an unregenerate Judas for the high calling and responsibility that he had in the first part of Christ's ministry? Can any say that he who was called and ordained to discipleship, appointed to apostleship, and who had obtained part of the ministry of the disciples — which part was so prominent and necessary that the eleven Apostles felt that no time should elapse before a successor was appointed — had never felt the pardon for sins or the surge of that new spiritual life that is given when one is made a new creature in Christ Jesus?

It is true that Jesus spoke of Judas as a devil on one occasion, and as the son of perdition on another. It is true that Old Testament prophets predicted his infamous actions and decisions. These Old Testament prophets also wrote of Christ's sufferings. They told of Christ's death and resurrection. They told of the price that He paid for us. But we are told that Christ had power to lay His life down and to take it up again. He had power to call a company of angels to oppose and overthrow the army that was brought against Him, and that He could come down from the very cross itself and refuse to die for the sins of mankind.

But Jesus willingly went to the cross. He willingly died, even though it was necessary for Him to ask for strength to endure that sad and painful hour. He fulfilled the prophecies of godly men of old. The prophecies were not commandments that Jesus was compelled to obey; they were history written in advance through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit who knows the mind of God, is equal with God, and has the infinite wisdom and foreknowledge of God.

Judas, too, fulfilled prophecy, He was called the "son of perdition" because he chose the path that led him to the condition that merited that name. He was not called the son of perdition because he was thus predestined and had no alternative. He was called a "devil" because he chose the way that led to darkness and alienation from God and Heaven. He willfully chose the wages of unrighteousness instead of the rewards of God. And when he saw the full amount of those wages that would inevitably be paid him he acted like the coward that he was, plunging headlong into a blazing, eternal punishment from which there is no escape. The prophecy concerning Judas would never have been written as applying to him had he chosen the higher way instead of the way that leads to eternal damnation.

Let all who take refuge behind such an insecure fortress as the doctrine of the so-called eternal security of the believer take heed to the example and fate of this man whom God called, ordained, empowered, commissioned, and sent out to work for the Kingdom-cause. Let all who feel safe under the Blood, which they say was shed for their past, present, and future sins, realize that the Blood will never avail unless it is applied, and it can be applied only when there is repentance, and forgiveness is sought through faith and a sincere forsaking of sin. Let all who say that

they will be sanctified at death read again the words of the Apostle Peter who said Judas "was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry," from which he "by transgression fell." Peter also told of Judas' suicidal death and the reference that was made to him by the Psalmist, given to remind us of the curse that was even put upon his earthly possessions.

Can an individual be saved who refuses the means of grace and disobeys the commandment of God by betraying and delivering to wicked men Him whom we are commanded to love with all the heart, mind, soul, and spirit? Can a person be saved who has trodden under foot "the innocent blood" and thereby cut off his hope of that Blood cleansing away his sins? Can one who, by committing the sin of murder, plunging his soul into eternity and thereby throwing away his last opportunity to repent, ever be saved? The answer to all these questions is obviously No! Reader, think carefully on these things!

The Steps of Judas' Downfall

It might be asked: Of what benefit to us is the study of the life of this God-forsaken man? For one thing, we can see the steps that led to his eventually tragic end, and we must guard lest we take the same course.

Sin, at its ending, is always obnoxious. Even in this life there is nothing to be desired in the final outcome of a lifetime of dissipation and revelry. Physical ailments plague the last days of the majority of the willfully rebellious. Peace of mind is always gone. The conscience, many times, allows its owner no rest. And the tortures of a body wrecked in sin remain when the pleasures and intoxications of the days of wantonness are gone.

But at the beginning of a life of sin, the very opposite is true. Sin often appeals to the mind and heart of the young. There may be, at first, a certain thrill, a certain joy, and a certain measure of excitement in an excursion into the paths of wrong. But such an excursion leaves a bitter sting of remorse, and many times so blemishes the mind and body of the wayward one that nothing will ever completely remove that scar or restore him to the pristine, or original, innocence he once possessed.

Let it not be thought, even for a moment, that these thrills of sin can equal the much greater, present-day compensations and the eternal rewards that we receive because of a life of righteousness. Some have tired of the godly life, the righteous influence of those around them, and the ordered path of the faithful ones, and have sought something new and different. The beginnings of sin are attractive to them since they have turned their hearts away from the Source of true happiness and joy.

Saul, Israel's first king, began a descent that also ended in suicide by allowing pride to come into his formerly humble heart. He, too, had felt the thrill of the Spirit's call and influence, had been given a new heart, and had been chosen by God. But Saul closed his life on earth in a tragedy that is second only to that of Judas. The path that led to God's final rejection of that king began with a seemingly innocent harboring of pride in his heart.

Just so, the beginnings of Judas' downfall were what the world would call small and not to be noticed. He began to covet. He was placed in a position of responsibility in the little group that followed Jesus. But we are told that he became a thief. What he stole, or from whom it was stolen, is not told us. But the fact that he was a thief is plainly set forth.

It was then but a little step for him to bargain and covenant with the enemies of Christ. Jesus warned him, even to pointing him out as the one who would betray Him. But Judas did not repent or turn aside from the way that led to the perpetration of the world's most terrible crime.

Even the words of the prophets spoke to him of the tragic ending that was ahead for him if he committed the deed he contemplated. He must have had knowledge of those words for they were known to Peter, who in all probability was far less educated than Judas. It was not after the receiving of the Comforter — our Guide to lead us into all truth and to

reveal the things of God to us — that Peter quoted the words spoken prophetically of Judas. It was at least ten days prior to that event on the Day of Pentecost (**Psalm 69:25** ²⁵ Let their habitation be desolate; *and* let none dwell in their tents. **Psalm 94:20-23** ²⁰ Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law? ²¹ They gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous, and condemn the innocent blood. ²² But the LORD is my defence; and my God is the rock of my refuge. ²³ And he shall bring upon them their own iniquity, and shall cut them off in their own wickedness; *yea*, the LORD our God shall cut them off. **Psalm 109:8** ⁸ Let his days be few; *and* let another take his office. **Acts 1:15-26** ¹⁵ And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,) ¹⁶ Men *and* brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. ¹⁷ For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry. ¹⁸ Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹ And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood. ²⁰ For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take. ²¹ Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. ²³ And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all *men*, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, ²⁵ That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. ²⁶ And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles). Therefore, if Judas did not know, he could have known. He was justly condemned. Let the believer in the false doctrine of eternal security also note the condemnation of Judas in these prophetic passages. He was cut off in his own iniquity! And it is an inescapable fact that he had been, at one time, a righteous man!

After the rejection of the warnings given him, Judas let Satan put a determination in his heart to commit the actual deed (**John 13:2** ² And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;). Judas had already bargained with Christ's enemies. He had rendered himself vulnerable to Satan's attacks by reasoning with him through his henchmen.

The next step was devil-possession, for it is written, "After the sop Satan entered into him." Here, he became the son of perdition in actuality. He was now the complete servant of Satan — an antichrist of that early age — a complete apostate and Christ-rejecter. The hope that had once burned brightly in his heart was gone. He who had once been instrumental in the work of the Kingdom of Christ was now an abject and willing-hearted slave in the kingdom of Satan. Since we know there is joy in Heaven over every soul that is snatched from the kingdom of darkness and brought into the Kingdom of Light, we can assume that there was fiendish glee and rejoicing in the realms of the damned when Satan accomplished that infamous deed.

The next steps are obvious. Judas committed the deed without a tremor or bit of consideration for its terrible consequences. He felt no qualms of conscience when he kissed the pure, undefiled Christ of Glory, thereby giving the signal to the waiting armies that here was the One whom they sought. There was no affection in that kiss. There was no feeling of gratitude in it for all that Christ had done for him. There was only the spirit of betrayal, the double-dealing of a traitor, and the spirit of covetousness that would sell the most priceless Jewel of Heaven for a mere pittance. (Judas received the equivalent of \$19.50 in our American money.)

The price that Judas set when bargaining with the enemies of Christ was that which was required, under the Law, as the most that could be exacted by a slaveholder when one of his best slaves was killed in an accident. Judas had now come to the place of rejection of God and His Christ where he could sell his Master for no more than the price of a slave!

Judas had remorse, but no repentance. He took back the "price of blood" and said that he had betrayed "the innocent blood." There was no other who could qualify for that title than Christ. There may have been people killed who were innocent of certain crimes or outbroken sins, and it could be said of those people that innocent blood had been shed. But when it is stated, "I **have** betrayed **the** innocent **blood**," none other than Christ could have **been** meant, for He alone is **The** Innocent One. Judas admitted his sin in betraying the divine Son of God, but more is necessary for salvation than a mere admission of guilt.

The thieves on their crosses were both guilty, but only one Was saved; and he was saved only because he called upon the Lord for mercy and for help, admitting his guilt. There is no salvation for the unrepentant. Judas never repented to God. He attempted to obtain a certain reconciliation by repenting to the chief priests and elders, but never once was his prayer directed to God — the only One who can forgive sins.

Abandoned by God, rejected and scoffed at by those with whom he was conspiring, the former disciple and Apostle took his own life. We have seen that he sealed forever his own doom by ending his life with an act of sin, because in that very act of sin he passed out of this world to stand before his God, condemned for all his sins, unrepenting, and without hope.

QUESTIONS

- 1 To what responsibilities had Judas been called? and what was the title of this office?
- 2 What responsibility was his among the immediate twelve Apostles?
- 3 What was the first digression from righteousness that we see in Judas' life?
- 4 In what way did Judas violate the commandment that righteous men should not seek the fellowship or unnecessary companionship of the ungodly?
- 5 What warnings did Judas receive that could have saved him from his fate?
- 6 Was Judas compelled to do what he did by a divine prediction over which he had no control?
- 7 When can it be said that he fully became the "son of perdition"?
- 8 How does this lesson refute the false doctrine of the eternal security of the believer?
- 9 Explain the difference between Satan's activities concerning Judas, as recorded in John 13:2 and 27.
- 10 10 What is the difference between remorse and repentance? Which did Judas have? And was Judas saved in the end?