

Judas: Belief or Betrayal?
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(12) In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. (13) And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: (14) Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, (15) and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, (16) and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. (Luke 6:12-16)

(70) ... "Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." (71) He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the Twelve, was going to betray him. (Jn 6:70-71)

1. Will you choose belief or betrayal, the blessing of God or the banality of sin?

(2) So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. (3) Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. (4) But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, (5) "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" (6) He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag 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." (Jn 12:2-8)

2. Will you choose God over greed, grace or guilt?

(14) ...Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests (15) and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. (16) And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him... (Matt. 26:14-16)

3. Will you choose wealth over and above the Word of God?

(20) When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. (21) And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." (22) And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" (23) He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. (24) The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." (25) Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so." (Matt. 26:20-25)

(21) ...Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." (22) The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. (23) One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, (24) so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. (25) So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" (26) Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. (27) Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." (28) Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. (29) Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. (30) So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night. (Jn 13:21-30)

4. Will you choose peace and praise or pride and power?

(45) ...the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. (46) Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand." (47) While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people.

(48) Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; seize him." (49) And he came up to Jesus at once and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" And he kissed him. (50) Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do." Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. (Matt 26:45-50)

(1) When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. (2) And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor. (3) Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, (4) saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." (5) And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. (6) But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money." (7) So they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field as a burial place for strangers. (8) Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. (9) Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, (10) and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me." (Matt 27:1-10)

5. Will you choose the house of hell or the house of God, a rebels reward or a repenters reward?

(15) In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, (16) "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. (17) For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." (18) (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out... (Acts 1:15-18)

Bottom Line: Which tree will your sins be hung on, the cross of self or the Cross of Christ?

(9) Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me. (10) But you, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them! (11) By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me. (12) But you have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever. (13) Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!... (Ps 41:9-13)

(See also: Ps 55:12-14, Zech 11:12-13)

(10) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (1Tim 6:10)

(5) Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you fail to meet the test! (2Cor 13:5)

(6) If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. (Jn 15:6)

