

A MAN OF KERIOTH

(JUDAS ISCARIOT, or Ish Kerieth, a Man of Kerieth, a Town in Judah -- Matt. 10:2-4; Acts 1:16:ff)

I. Judas and his life was no surprise to our Lord.

A. Jesus knew all along who it was who would betray Him.

John 6:64 "But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him. (NASB)

John 6:70 Jesus answered them, "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and [yet] one of you is a devil?" (NASB)

John 13:18 "I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but [it is] that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats My bread has lifted up his heel against Me.'" (NASB)

B. Judas was left "holding the bag" in more than one way throughout his life.

1. Our Lord appointed him treasurer (to hold the bag) simply because this was his God-given gift.

2. Many times life-temptations come from that which we have the most aptitude.

a. The handsome and beautiful may fall more easily into sexual temptation.

b. The keen-minded may corrupt business transactions faster.

c. The quick-witted may be enticed to fall into coarse jesting; The gift to gab.....

3. Hypocrisy and covetousness became second nature to him.

John 12:4-6 But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, 5 "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii, and given to poor [people]?" 6 Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it. (NASB)

C. Why do you suppose Judas turned from the Messiah to follow the Evil One?

1. In the springtime of the movement, all was full of promise — land, people and disciples. There was so much power in the Lord's face and words— in His look and deed.

2. Even Judas shared in that supernatural power in the early days of "the ministry."

3. But step by step, especially after the death of the Baptist, there had come disappointment.

4. Jesus began to withdraw from the crowds He wished to be with before. His own family said He was crazy while the Pharisees insisted Jesus' ministry had Satanic agency and influence.

5. News of the Kingdom was increasingly moral and spiritual and less and less physical and now guess what? he wants us to eat His flesh and drink His blood. What next?

6. A master-passion of "disappointed ambition" erupts into hypocritical deception fueled by contemptuous hatred. "A little leaven leavens the whole lump."

II. Judas bargains to betray Jesus and, I believe, wishes to redirect his allegiance. But the wicked despise the snitch — they only use them.

A. The council put feelers out to entice unsuspecting accomplices.

John 11:57 Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where He was, he should report it, that they might seize Him. (NASB) See Matt. 26:1-5

B. Judas took the bait — hook, line and sinker.

Luke 22:3-6 And Satan entered into Judas who was called Iscariot, belonging to the number of the twelve. 4 And he went away and discussed with the chief priests and officers how he might betray Him to them. 5 And they were glad, and agreed to give him money (and they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him). 6 And he consented, and [began] seeking a good opportunity to betray Him to them apart from the multitude. (NASB)

- C. The “thirty pieces of silver” amounted to 15 dollars and was the price of a slave (Ex. 21:32). The money for this transaction came from the “Temple Money” used to purchase the sacrifices.

III. Jesus discharges Judas while at the Paschal Supper to accomplish his dastardly task.

- A. It seems that Peter is seated across from Jesus as he “gestures” and asks “Tell us who it is whom He is speaking.” See John 13:21-29
- B. John is the very one leaning on the breast of the Lord to His right in a reclining position. Jesus next whispers “That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him.”
- C. There were four or five “sop bowls” on the table before them so that three or four guests could share them. Judas had to be seated to the left (back) of Jesus in order to receive the morsel.
- D. As Judas was about to take the last fatal step, Jesus with great compassion, appealed to all that was human in him by honoring him with the morsel. All Judas could say, “Is it I Lord?”
- E. Jesus simply says, “What you do, do quickly.” And Judas departs.

IV. Judas leads a small army out to betray Jesus. See John 18:1ff

- A. Judas is used only because he knows of the lone, quiet garden of his Master where a uninterrupted arrest can swiftly be made.
- B. He leads a part of a Roman Battalion, officers from the chief priests, and Pharisees carrying torches, lanterns and weapons. He brings one personal item, a kiss. This is primarily a Roman event, now, since the “power of the sword” had been removed from the council for some forty years.
- C. Jesus intercepted the crowd and extended repentance to Judas one more time by saying “I am He.”
- D. Two miracles occur: “The soldiers fell back” and Malcus’ ear is repaired.
- E. Judas slithers off into the deep night of despair.

V. The night goes too harshly for the Lord; Judas becomes a nervous wreck.

- A. Judas’ footfall on the marble pavement, torches flashing on his trader-face, haughty, sneering noises from the council and the clink of thirty pieces of silver make for a terrible study.
- B. He retreats to his “new allies” only to find them as cold as ice. The Sanhedrin Council were in league with Judas only for a moment and that at a price. No love lost here and certainly no newfound friendships. The wicked distrust the snitch. **Matthew 27:3-4** Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See [to that] yourself!" (NASB)
- C. It would have been better for him never to be born.
Matthew 26:24 "The Son of Man [is to] go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born."

VI. It goes from bad to worse. Satan always “Thrills—then Kills,” “Fascinates—then Assassinates,” “Lures—then Floors.”

- A. Satan is the “Master of Disaster.”
Matthew 27:5 And he threw the pieces of silver into the sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself. (NASB)
Acts 1:18 Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. See Matt. 27:6-7 for laundered money