

October 7, 2018

Matthew 26:14-16

The Betrayal

- Why did Judas betray Jesus? *Politics, money, jealousy...*

John 17:12b I have guarded them [the 11 disciples], and not one of them has been lost except the son of [perdition] destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled...

- Why didn't Jesus also guard Judas from Satan's attacks? Judas' betrayal was part of "the definite plan...of God" (**Acts 2:23**).
- Judas' betrayal involves the twin truths of God's Sovereignty at work in man's responsibility. **Deut. 29:29**.

Man's Responsibility

- Judas was responsible for his decision.

James 1:13-15 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death

- Judas did what was already in his sinful heart.

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure...

Divine Sovereignty

- From the very beginning, the Bible shows that God protects some and not others:

2 Peter 2:5 ...[God] did not spare the ancient world, but preserved [protected] Noah...

Luke 22:31-32 Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, 32 but I have prayed for [protected] you that your faith fail not..

- Why didn't Jesus also pray that Judas' faith fail not?

John 17:12b I have guarded them [but not Judas] ...that the Scripture might be fulfilled...

- Judas' betrayal was announced in the Scriptures centuries before the event of his betrayal.

Ps 41 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!

John 13:17 I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me

- In refusing to pray for Judas, Jesus was obeying the eternal decree of God to use Judas' sinful nature as an instrument to bring about the GOOD of the Cross.
Rom.8:28.

Gen 50:20 ...you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive...

- Here is the mystery: God used Judas' own free [of coercion] decision to bring about His eternal decree of the redemption of His people through the betrayal and death of His Son.
- "Son of Perdition"

John 12 ...the son of [perdition] destruction...

2 Thess 2:3 ...the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction...

Rev 13:2 ...to [the beast] the dragon [Satan-Rev. 12:9] gave his power and his throne and great authority [2 Cor. 4:4] ...13:18 ...the number of the beast... is the number of a man...666...

- This is the man who will be demonically empowered to viciously attack the testimony of God in the church.
- This man wants to destroy the people of God but God will protect them from being spiritually destroyed.

1 Peter 1:3-6 According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time...

- Not only was Judas' betrayal part of God's saving plan for His people, even the amount of money he received was a fulfillment of the Scripture:

Zech 11:12 ...give me my wages; but if not, keep them." And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver...

- This means that every aspect of Jesus' arrest, trials and crucifixion, including His betrayal by Judas, was under the direct supervision and administration of God so that *the Scriptures might be fulfilled*.