

JUDAS: THE SON OF PERDITION

Mark 3:13-19 – Part 6

INTRODUCTION

Maybe Alex – Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing

→ Part 6 of the series – *A Walk with The Apostles*

→ a very serious turn here – a man numbered among the apostles

READ Mark 3:16-19

Group 1: Impetuous, Intense, Immature, Quiet Evangelist

Group 2: Pessimist, Pure-Hearted, The Forgiven Extortionist,
The Loyal Believer

Group 3: The Little Leader, The Tender Man,
The Transformed Assassin

3:19 “and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.”

Like Peter, the Leader, is always listed 1st → Always listed last

“**Iscariot**” – the man of Kerioth (Josh 15:25)

– the other 11 were Galileans, Judas Iscariot is Judean

Proposⁿ: **6 Lessons** from our study of Judas

- 1) Beware Greed and Love of Self**
- 2) Don’t Waste the Opportunity**
- 3) Proximity to Christ is No Guarantee**
- 4) You Are Responsible for Your Sin**
- 5) God Foreordained Evil**
- 6) God Will be Glorified in All Things – Including Evil**

So That: We will learn these powerful lessons ...

from the most horrifying of lives ever lived ...

So That: We will fully know and appreciate why God allows evil.

So That: We will be better evangelists, apologists, and counselors

1st Lesson from our Study of Judas ...

I. Beware Greed and Love of Self

Point – “Love of Money is the root of all kinds of evil”

Greed and Love of Self are almost Identical

Maybe should say “Beware Greed/Love of Self”

instead of “Beware Greed and Love of Self”

Proof – Judas is a **Trusted** man

– he is the Treasurer – **Turn to: John 12:6** –

“a **thief**” – John 12:46

“a **devil**” – John 6:70 He is a child of hell and a son of perdition.

“**son of perdition**” – **Turn to: John 17:12**

John records Thaddaeus as “Judas (not Iscariot)” – you can almost feel the exclamation point

– the other apostles ask, “Lord, is it I?” not “Lord, is it Judas?”

(Mk 14:19)

He is a **Traitor** → “**who also betrayed Him**”

“**betrayed**” – handed over – Sold Him down the river

Luke – “who became a **traitor**”

IIIrd – current pope – Benedict XVI. You don’t see many children born in America being named Benedict. Why is that? Benedict Arnold of course. Also Quisling. The name Judas itself bears the worst stigma of all, not just in America. Reaching to all people groups and for all time. the most despised person in human history.

Dante - the place of Judas in the ninth circle of Hell, where the jaws of Satan eternally chew him up – placed head-first inside Satan's mouth, with his back being shredded by the devil's claws

2nd Lesson from our Study of Judas ...

II. Don't Waste the Opportunity

Point – Carpe Diem Today is the Day of Salvation

Proof – Judas – a man, in many ways very similar to many in churches today. He is a man who spends almost 3 years following Jesus, watching Jesus, hearing Jesus preach and teach

Judas has as much opportunity as anyone ever had to turn F/ his sin

He commits the most horrible act of any individual, ever. He spends almost three years with Jesus, but for all this time his heart only grows hard and hateful. His greed has been festering.

Appⁿ – Judas is the worst tragedy that ever lived. He is the prime example of wasted opportunity. Judas followed Christ as the other apostles. For three years, he saw the same miracles; heard the same words; performed some of the same ministries.

IIIⁿ – Matt 25:14-30

Appⁿ – Urgency! Heb 9:27 – “it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment” Heb 10:31

you do not know when you may lie your head down on the pillow at night, but may awake in the flames of hell before morning.

We have been given an allotted amount of time here on earth by our Creator. → wise stewards of that time.

Time wasted here on earth is time lost in eternity.

3rd Lesson from our Study of Judas ...

III. Proximity to Christ is No Guarantee

Point – Christian Religion has no value w/o Christ

Proof – 12 Apostles spend years working together, eating together, living together – they did not know!!

The horrifying testimony of Judas reminds us that it is possible to be near Christ, to associate with Him closely, and still be totally hardened in sin.

Ralph Martin – “(Judas) lives on the stage of Scripture as an awful warning to the uncommitted follower of Jesus who is in his company but does not share his spirit.”

Spurgeon

“Understand, my brethren, that no gifts can ensure grace, and that no position of honor or usefulness in the Church will necessarily prove our being true to our Lord and Master. Doubtless there are bishops in hell, and crowds of those who once occupied the pulpit are now condemned for ever to bewail their hypocrisy. You that are Church-officers, do not conclude that because you enjoy the confidence of the Church, that therefore of an absolute certainty the grace of God is in you. Perhaps it is the most dangerous of all positions for a man to become well known and much respected by the religious world, and yet to be rotten at the core. To be where others can observe our faults is a healthy thing though painful; but to live with beloved friends who would not believe it possible for us to do wrong, and who if they saw us sin would make excuses for us—this is to be where it is next to impossible for us ever to be aroused if our hearts be not right with God. To have a fair reputation and a false heart is to stand upon the brink of hell.”

1 John 2:19

III^a – Luke 22:48 – “Jesus said to him, ‘Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?’” Kissing is a mark of love, affection, tenderness, and intimacy → makes his deed that much more evil.

III^a – in seminary you are taught to be ready because the man that welcomes you off the plane is the one who will slip the knife into your back 6 mo. later

Appⁿ – Warning! to those who play church, who wear the mask of the religious, but are dead on the inside with a hardened heart

Flee from your sin! Run to the Savior you are betraying.

Transⁿ – I was first exposed to Christianity when a sophomore in high school. → Jeff Foy – seems like Judas got a bum rap
→ Did Judas get a Bum Deal? Does he have a Bum Rap?

4th Lesson from our Study of Judas ...

IV. You Are Responsible for Your Sin

Point – Environment, Circumstances, Parents, Boss
→ Judas is Responsible → You are Responsible → I am ...

Proof – **Mark 14:21** - “better if that man had never been born”
Judas is not forced into doing what he does. He is not a robot. He is responsible for his own actions. He is guilty for his own actions.

How does Judas’ life end?

Turn to: Matt 27:3–4 –

Not true remorse. Not biblical sorrow. Not true repentance. He was sorry, not because he had sinned against Christ, but because his sin did not satisfy him the way he had hoped. → Like Cain

“Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself” (**v. 5**).

Matt 27:6–8 –

Acts 1:16–19 adds the final note to the tragedy of Judas:

The Field of Blood is where Judas hangs himself. He chooses a tree on an overhang above some jagged rocks. (Been there – seen the rocky craggy cliff). The rope or the tree branch breaks and Judas falls headlong onto the rocks: “he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out” (Acts 1:18).

Perfect final words for the **Trusted Traitor** who betrayed the Promised Messiah because of Greed and Love of Self

Illⁿ/Appⁿ – “**Iscariot**” – man of Kerioth – hotbed of Zealots ... Judas Iscariot is listed next to Simon the Zealot, the Transformed Assassin – might have been buddies – the might have started following Jesus from roughly the same point – politically-minded, interested in the kingdom coming in and overthrowing the Romans, etc. But they do not end up the same.

2 Assassins – one Transformed, one Rotted to the Core until his bowels burst open like a overripe fruit

Transⁿ – 1st Part of **Mark 14:21** (**Turn to**)

Psa 41:9 (messianic prophecy) – “Even my close friend, in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.” Jesus cites this verse in John 13:18.

Psa 55:12–14 – “it is not an enemy who reproaches me, Then I could bear *it*; Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me, Then I could hide myself from him. ¹³ But it is you, a man my equal, My companion and my familiar friend. ¹⁴ We who had sweet fellowship together, Walked in the house of God in the throng.”

5th Lesson from our Study of Judas ...

V. God Foreordained Evil

Point – At the Heart of a Question that has perplexed, confused, and consumed theologians and laymen alike for thousands of years

Called **Theodicy**: 2 Greek words: God and Righteousness

- 1) God is great.
- 2) God is good.
- 3) Evil exists. → How can this be?

Webster defines “theodicy” – “defense of God’s goodness and omnipotence in view of the existence of evil”

Answer often given in Christian circles

→ God wants fellowship → **Free will**

– some throw their hands up in the air and say we can’t sort through it. Not true. We can. Very simple.

Instead of trying to understand based on our thinking of what man is → understand based on God’s declaration of who God is

Why did God allow evil?

The Bible is absolutely necessary and completely sufficient to answer this question.

Evil always serves the ultimate best interest of God Himself. It is God in His goodness and in His sovereignty who ordained the final conquest over evil. In this redemption we find our rest and our joy.

Dr. Greg Bahnsen – “the problem of evil is not really a problem for the believer—but rather for the unbeliever”

Having a right understanding is absolutely practical for us:

The Gospel, True Salvation, Evangelism, Apologetics

– almost all of life’s most important questions

Proof –

God is Omnipotent – All-Powerful

Turn to: Isa 46:10-11

There is not one random molecule in the universe.

Point → God has the Power to do whatever He pleases

→ God has the Power to have not allowed evil.

This begs the question: so why did it please God to allow evil?

God is Good

Ps 100:5 – “the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting,
And His faithfulness to all generations.”

Bahnsen – “God has a *morally good reason* for the evil that exists
... (and) has planned evil events for reasons which are morally
commendable and good”

God foreordained Judas. God foreordained evil.

Rom 9 → vessels of wrath and honor

Judas’s role was foreordained – Acts 1:16 – “Brethren the
Scripture had to be fulfilled concerning Judas.”

Jesus chose Judas, He *knew* Judas would be the one to fulfill the
prophecies of betrayal. He knowingly chose him to fulfill the plan.

Jesus knew Judas was going to betray Him
“One of you is a devil” (**John 6:70**) → Jesus chose Judas, a devil,
a slanderer

Prov 16:4 – “The LORD has made everything for its own purpose,
even the wicked for the day of evil.”

Cain, Judas, Muhammad, Joseph Smith, Charles Taze Russell,
Mary Baker Eddy, Ellen G. White, Hitler, Osama bin Laden

Sproul – “one thing is certain: since God is both omnipotent and
good, we must conclude that in His omnipotence and goodness
there must be a place for the existence of evil. We know that God
Himself never does that which is evil. Nevertheless, He also
ordains whatsoever comes to pass. Though He does not do evil and
does not create evil, He does ordain that evil exists ... Since He
allowed evil to enter into this universe, it could only be by His
sovereign decision. Since His sovereign decisions always follow
the perfection of His being, we must conclude that His decision to
allow evil to exist is a good decision.

6th Lesson from our Study of Judas ...

VI. God Will be Glorified in All Things – Including Evil

Point – God is Great. God is Good. God is Holy, without sin.
God is NOT the Author of sin

The entrance of sin, the entrance of evil into Creation was certain.
In a way that preserves God completely from any stain of sin.

Proof –

The ultimate purpose of God in Creation is His own glory.

III^a – “I’m getting tired of you talking about the glory of God all the time.”

Acts 2:23 – “this Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.”

God foreordained that He Himself would be the ultimate casualty of the ultimate evil

in eternity past, it is through this greatest evil God foreordained that He would bring about the greatest good. Christ, who knew no sin, was the ultimate innocent victim of evil and the evil perpetrated against Him is the greatest injustice and evil ever done

Through the greatest evil, comes the greatest good. Through the most vile crime of humanity comes the greatest blessing upon humanity

The work of Christ at cross is the centerpiece of creation.

The magnum opus of God’s glory in creation, is the work of Christ at the cross

The beautiful facets of the work of Christ at the cross, Salvation → Election, Justification, Redemption, Sanctification, Glorification – ALL REQUIRE the existence of evil! All require Judas!

- Iniquity, unrighteous, disobedience, immoral – negative
- Expand on God gets the glory → **Attributes**

Grace and wrath – light and darkness – love and treachery – saint and sinner – wheat and tares – sheep and goats – the soft heart and the hard heart – the one submitting to the authority of Scripture and the one colliding with the authority of Scripture

→ All are part of God's eternal counsel – w/o any stain on God

Appⁿ – Be saddened by evil. Be grieved by evil. Mourn for the carnage caused by evil, But do not be discouraged by evil!

Appⁿ – when trouble comes your way ...

CONCLUSION

Judas does not seek the forgiveness of God. He does not cry out for mercy. He commits his final act of selfish rebellion → suicide

Perished w/o Christ – committing a slow suicide of despair

- lost opportunity
- hardened heart
- greed
- hopelessness
- selfishness

→ **John 6:35-40**