

Seeing the Disciples through the Lens of Grace

5) Judas Iscariot

Judas

- ✓ **Judas Iscariot was from Kerioth (Ish = man; Kerioth = a town 23 miles south of Jerusalem). He was the only disciple from Judea, not Galilee**
- ✓ **In every list of disciples, he is always mentioned last and always as the betrayer**
- ✓ **His name 'Judas' is the Greek form of 'Judah'**
- ✓ **Like the other disciples, he was chosen by Jesus after a night of prayer**

- ✓ **As a disciple of Jesus he was with Him and the group for 3 years, was taught by Him and sent on missions to preach the gospel, cast out demons and heal the sick**
- ✓ **He was attracted to Jesus, but for the wrong reasons, probably for position and money. He didn't have anything to say, until he complained about money. We are also told, '*he was a thief*' (John 12:6)**
- ✓ **Yet, for 3 years nobody suspected him. He was the ultimate hypocrite**
- ✓ **He was so trusted that he was even appointed as treasurer for the group**

But he was not a true believer

“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 would betray Him. And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.” From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more’

(Jn.6:64-66)

**Many of His disciples, including Judas,
were only attached to Him in an external
way**

“We have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?” He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve’ (Jn.6:69-71)

✓ **Peter thought he spoke on behalf of the Twelve when he said they had come to believe in Him, but Jesus knew that this was not true of Judas**

✓ *'But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always"'*
(John 12:4-8)

✓ **Judas asked, if Mary has had this ointment why didn't she sell it before and give the proceeds to the poor? Answer: 'She kept it until this day to anoint Me for My burial'**

- ✓ **Judas had already worked out the cost and protested the extravagance as being an irresponsible waste. If he really cared for the poor, why did he take money from the treasury for himself when it could have been given to the poor? He pretended to care for the poor on the day that he wanted to rob them**
- ✓ **Jesus was in anguish as He contemplated the cross. Only Mary was spiritually attuned to the significance of the moment, and she acted appropriately. She knew much of this because she had sat at His feet. She was His best listener. She grasped the significance of His death, which the disciples failed to do**

- ✓ **Her open, public worship contrasted with Judas' secret theft and betrayal**
- ✓ **She freely gave 300 denarii; Judas sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver**
- ✓ **He valued money, but she valued Jesus**
- ✓ **Mary drew the attention of all to the Lord; Judas would turn away the thoughts of all from Christ to 'the poor'**
- ✓ **She was a true disciple, he was a counterfeit, a pretender**

- ✓ **Judas went out the next day and made his bargain with the religious leaders to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Seeing one source of personal financial gain lost, he hastened to create another**
- ✓ **Jesus said that wherever the gospel is preached what Mary did would also be mentioned. The gospel and Mary's response to it must never be separated**

'I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, "He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me." Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me'

(John 13:18-20)

- ✓ **Jesus forewarned them that one of their own would betray Him. He even showed that this was foretold in the Scriptures. He did this so that they would know that He was the one who was foretold in Scripture, and instead of them being stumbled by the apostasy of one of their number, it would strengthen their faith in the word of God**
- ✓ **To lift the heel is to kick suddenly like a horse might do to its owner. It has the sense of a treacherous, unexpected attack**
- ✓ **In Bible times hospitality and a shared table meant that if one who eats bread with us afterwards lifts up his heel against us it would be a great betrayal and treachery**

□ 'I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled'

(John 17:9-12)

- ✓ **Jesus kept all safe 'but' Judas, not 'except'. The disjunctive participle is used here, as frequently in Scripture, to contrast those belonging to two different classes (e.g. Matt.12:4; Acts 27:22; Rev.21:27)**
- ✓ **Not one of those given to Christ can, or will, be lost. Judas was never given by the Father to the Son, was never '*clean*', was called a '*devil*' and had no real faith**
- ✓ **He is also called '*the son of perdition*'. This term is only used here, and in 2 Thes.2:3 of the Antichrist. It means one totally ruined, abandoned and utterly lost**

□ Why did Judas betray Jesus?

- ✓ **Some say because of the money. Like others he was attracted to Jesus for the wrong reason. He was a thief**
- ✓ **Others say because he had political ambition of being with the Messiah who he thought would overthrow the Romans. Maybe this was true of Simon the Zealot also. But Simon changed his motive for following Jesus**
- ✓ **Others say he had no choice. It was predicted, therefore he was predestined to betray Jesus, *'Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me'* (Psa.41:9)**



'Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver'. And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter'
(Zech.11:12-13)

“Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry.” (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.) “For it is written in the Book of Psalms: ‘Let his dwelling place be desolate, and let no one live in it’; and, ‘Let another take his office.’”

(Acts 1:16-20)

- ✓ **Even though Jesus foresaw Judas' betrayal and it was predicted in the OT, it was Judas' choice that was foreseen, not his predestination to this act. He made a conscious choice to betray Jesus**
- ✓ **God is not responsible for Judas's decision. God did not tempt him; Satan did**
- ✓ **He willingly submitted himself to the temptation. The word 'betray' is translated from the Greek *paradidomi*, meaning to give up or give over to (John 19:30; Gal.2:20; Eph.5:25)**
- ✓ **Judas was given the same opportunity as the others. Yet, He chose to betray Jesus**

- ✓ **Jesus taught him, as well as the others**
- ✓ **Jesus loved him (washed his feet, appealed to him, handed the sop to him, called him 'friend')**
- ✓ **As long as a person is alive and has breath, it's never too late to come to God for forgiveness and salvation**
- ✓ **People ask, 'What about me? Could I do the same as Judas? Could I become lost?'**
- ✓ **Judas never had saving faith**

'Now as they were eating, He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, "Lord, is it I?"'

He answered and said, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me. The Son of Man indeed goes 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." Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "Rabbi, is it I?" He said to him, "You have said it"'

(Matt.26:21-25)

All the other disciples called Jesus, 'Lord'

Judas called him, 'Rabbi'

Judas never called Jesus, 'Lord'

***'...no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by
the Holy Spirit'***

(1 Cor.12:3)

Summary of the disciples

- ✓ **The disciples became the apostles**
- ✓ **These were the same men who denied Jesus and abandoned Him at His crucifixion**
- ✓ **Their lives show us that God can use anyone to fulfill His purposes. Despite their flaws and failures they became leaders, and heralds of the Gospel**
- ✓ **Their characteristics remind us of diversity in the body of Christ and the power of Jesus to not only transform us, but enable us to live and work together in harmony**

- ✓ **Not one of the disciples were rabbis or religious leaders. They were ordinary people, like you and me**
- ✓ **Yet they established the early Church and laid the foundation for the faith that billions of believers around the world today**
- ✓ **According to tradition, 10 of the disciples were martyred, although only James' death is mentioned in the New Testament**