

## Judas

Let's read Matthew 26:45-50, 27:3-10, Acts 1:16-18

Ask anyone, almost anywhere in the world who was Judas Iscariot, and the answer you receive will almost certainly include the word, traitor!. Anyone who's told: 'You Judas' knows exactly what they're accused of, even if they've never opened a Bible in their life before.

So let's look at the handful of Bible references where Judas was mentioned or was a part of -

Mark 3:19 and Matthew 10:4 Judas is chosen but there's a suffix being his later notoriety probably to distinguish him from Simon the zealot aka Judas son of James (Luke 6:12). In essence there were two disciples whose names were Judas. All twelve of these disciples including Judas were given the title of apostles. Matthew 10:2.

In Matthew 10:5-42 the disciples are given their first assignment, to proclaim the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Matthew doesn't go into how that went for them but Mark 6:7-13 does as does Luke 9:1-6. For such novices to go out on an impromptu evangelistic mission like that and to preach, heal and cast out demons was truly amazing.

Again in Luke 10:1-23 there's a repeat performance but this time with 70 disciples and Judas was doubtless one of them. Luke records that Judas played an active role (see Acts 1:17). Reminds me of Lord Lord ... Matthew 7:22

In John 6:71 Judas is described by Jesus as a devil. Jesus knew his character even though at that time nothing is recorded as him having done anything wrong. Jesus knows our heart, what it's like even before we're born.

Judas's next mention is in John 12:4-6 in the story of Mary, sister of Lazarus and Martha. This is where Judas was accused of being a thief.

In John chapter 13 there's a focus on Judas. In verse 2 we're told that Satan was in charge of him. In verses 4-5 Jesus washes the disciples' feet, including no doubt, Judas's. Confirmation that Jesus lived as He preached, see Matthew 5:43-48 love your enemies.

In Luke 22:3 we have confirmation that Satan had entered Judas but God was still in ultimate control of him. How do we know? Judas demanded the specific sum of 30 pieces of silver, a fulfilment of a Messianic prophecy Zechariah 11:13 A prediction of Judas's tantrum at the Pharisees, the price he received and his burial place.

Here's a couple more prophecies of Judas -

Psalm 41:9

Read Jeremiah 19:1-9. The Valley of Hinnon, specifically a place called Topheth, was a designated place, south of Jerusalem where children were murdered and their bodies sacrificed in worship to weird gods as described in Psalm 106:36-38, 2 Kings 23:20 and 2 Chronicles 28:3-4. The last 3 verses of the passage in Jeremiah refer to the anti-Christ and that's the link between Judas and the anti-Christ. This link is reinforced in Psalm 55:12-14 and verses 20-21 and the title Son of Perdition in John 17:12 and 2 Thessalonians 2:3.

Why did the Pharisees need a betrayer? Look up John 8:59, Luke 4:29. Jesus had been a slippery

character because His time was not ready. Now it was.

Why did the traitor sell Jesus for the paltry sum of only 30 pieces of silver when, supposedly, he could have obtained a larger sum? It was to fulfil Zechariah 11:12-13. Thirty pieces of silver was the price of a slave Exodus 21:32.

What possible motives did Judas have to betray Jesus? 13 very close mates working and living together. Nothing suggests Judas didn't fit in. Judas was mid table in the pecking order, not one of the chosen 3 that saw Jesus's transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9) but he was the treasurer. When Jesus announced that one of their number would betray Him nobody there looked at Judas so he couldn't have been a misfit and even when Jesus pointed Judas out none of the disciples could believe it was him. Matthew 26:20-25. So why did he do it?

Maybe political. Maybe he was trying to force a turn of events believing that Jesus would fight for His survival and that could trigger a revolution against the Romans.

Money is the obvious motive but it was hardly a life changing amount he received.

Maybe he was just born for this role, same as Pharaoh's heart. Romans 9:17

Judas casts devils out, heals etc. was filled with the Holy Spirit. Anyone else in the Bible like that? Balaam in Numbers 22:1 to 25:1-3. See also 2 Peter 2:15, Revelation 2:14. Is it possible to be filled with Holy Spirit and not to know God or be saved?

What lessons can we draw from this study of Judas?

Don't take your salvation for granted. Is it possible to follow Jesus and not be saved? Work out your salvation - Philippians 2:12.

if you feel you've messed up; take it to Jesus rather than the Pharisees eg: the thief on the cross.

God is at liberty to use whom He will to bring about His will being done.

After the rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:17), the churches will not be empty. There will be many senior clerics of all denominations wondering why they were left behind. Make sure you're not with them.

Don't let anything or anyone get in front of your walk with God? Judas allowed his love of money to get in between him and Jesus.