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Jesus had twelve disciples including Judas Iscariot who was very faithful; we see Satan entering him and blinds his mind and heart to betray the Son of God. Judas was the son of Simon, *“Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, which should betray him,”* (John 12:4). He was of “Kerioth” in the tribe of Judah for which he is named. The name means “praise” but Judas was not a praise of God. Let us see some of his activities, *“Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son which should betray him, why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a **thief** and had the bag, and bare what was put therein. Then said Jesus, let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.”* (John 12:4-8). The passage says Judas was a THIEF. We may have this kind of people in the church who pretend to care for incapable people, but it’s hypocrisy. *“Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, and said unto them what will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to **betray him.**”* (Matt. 26:14-16). *“And as they did eat, he said, verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began everyone of them to say unto him, Lord is it I? and he answered and said, He that **dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me.** The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! It had been good for that man if he had not been born. **Then Judas which betrayed him,** answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, thou hast said.”* (Matt. 26:21-25). I remember Bro. Ellis as he was expositing this passage. In the normal situation of life, the people we eat with and share our thoughts with are those that mostly turn against us. *“Rise let us be going: behold he is at hand that doth betray me. And while he yet spake lo, Judas, one of the twelve came and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he; hold him fast. And forthwith he came to Jesus and said, hail, master; and kissed him. And Jesus said unto him, friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they and laid hands on Jesus and took him.”* (Matt. 26:46-50). *“Then Judas which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself and brought again the thirty pieces of silver chief priests and elders, saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed innocent blood. And they said what is that to us? See thou to that...”* (Matt.

27:3-8). Judas sold our Lord for thirty pieces of silver and betrayed him to the high priests, scribe, and other religious officials with a kiss. As the Jewish religious leaders were taking Jesus to be tried by Pilate, Judas brought the money back to the temple, confessed that he betrayed innocent blood, and went out hanged himself.

What are the lessons:

- He was one time a close friend of Jesus, he had left all and followed Jesus, he had a special talent to take care of their treasury. Here was also his downfall for the scriptures point out he condemned Mary for anointing Jesus with the precious ointment as a waste which could have been sold and the money given to the poor. *“This he said not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.”* (John 12:6). Covetousness and greed got into his life. The Lord received him into the apostleship and trusted him but he betrayed Him. *“Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.”* (Psa. 41:9). Again one time Ellis was teaching and one of the things he talked was about friends that turn their back against us; their transgression may fell as Judas’. *“That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.”* (Acts 1:25).
- Judas shows that a child of God can fall from grace and be lost. He was sent out on the limited commission (Matt. 10). *“Have I not chosen you twelve and one of you is a devil?”* (John 6:70-71). He was speaking of Judas, and so greed and covetousness was the devil Judas had. He could have ruled over it but he did not. He let Satan enter into him (Luke 22:3) when he is about to betray the Lord. If he had not been a faithful disciple at one time then how could he by transgression fall? (Acts 1:25). From what did he fall? The only answer is that he once was a faithful disciple. Christians today need to take heed lest they fall and lose their souls. *“Let him that standeth take heed lest he fall.”* (1 Cor. 10:12). Also Heb. 3:12; Matt. 13:41-42; and John 15:6).
- Judas went through a form of repentance but was not restored to the Lord. 2 Cor. 7:10, speaks of two kinds of repentance. One is motivated by godly sorrow while the other is motivated by sorrow of the world. *“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”* (2 Cor. 7:10). Judas’ repentance was a regret for what he had done and bringing the money back that he had taken. But he did not return

to faithful discipleship. He confessed his sin but instead of restoration he went out and committed another sin of suicide. Repentance is not sorrow though it is motivated by godly sorrow. Repentance that pleases God is a change of mind of man which is followed by a change of conduct. Two different Greek words are in the New Testament translated “repent”. One is “Metamelomai” which means “to care after” indicating a sorrow for the past, regret. This is used in Matt. 27:3. The other word is “Metanoeo” which means “to know after”, indicating a change of mind or purpose which is what the Lord said that unless we do we will perish. (Luka 13:3).

- Judas confessed, *“I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood.”* (Matt. 27:4). This shows the innocence of the Son of God; if Judas could have found fault in the Lord he would have told it but there was NONE. The man who betrayed Christ, under no compelling power except that of his own conscience, admitted Christ’s innocence. The Jewish leaders just took the money and bought the potter’s field. They did not allow the testimony of Judas to be known at the trial.
- We learn from Judas the vice of wrong motives. When Mary anointed Jesus, Judas said the ointment could have been sold for three hundred pence and given to the poor; but his concern for the poor was not his real motive (John 12:3-8). He encouraged discontentment among the other disciples, *“For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her. And Jesus said, let her alone; why trouble ye her? She hath wrought a good work on me.”* (Mark 14:5-6). One person with a wrong motive can create much dissatisfaction and backbiting. Judas kissed Jesus but it was not because he loved Him, but because he was using it as a mark of betrayal (Matt. 26:47-49). This which could have been the whitest was the blackest of motives. Jesus in the sermon on the mount taught a great lessons on motives in Matt. 6, He first said don’t give to be seen by men but do it secretly so that the Lord can reward openly. He also said do not pray to be seen of men, nor think that one is heard from much praying. Prayer should be sincere, from the heart and direct and to the point as He gave model prayer of sixty words. This prayer could be repeated in twenty seconds but it has profound meaning. He also said do not do your fasting to be seen of men. Anything done to impress people is a wrong motive. Anything done to gain a personal advantage is a wrong motive. A

Christian's motive is because he loves the Lord and really needs His blessings.

- Judas had the same opportunities as the other apostles. He squandered his opportunities. He allowed his heart to become evil. The condition on the heart affects the life and the production of gospel fruit. "*Keep thy heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life.*" (Prov. 4:23).
- Judas went to his own place, (Acts 1:25). We all determine what eternal home will be ours by our actions in life. When a person takes no interest in preparing himself for heaven how could he expect to go there? In Luke 16:19-24, two men lived and two died, and each one went to his own place. If we die in sin like Judas, where the Lord is we will not go, "*Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.*" (John 8:21). In Amos' words, "*Prepare O Israel to meet thy GOD.*" (Amos 4:12).
- Jesus said "*It had been good for that man, if he had not been born.*" (Matt. 26:24). This is also true of all who betray Jesus by selling him out for something of this world.

We must get ready before it is too late; this needs preparation by cleaning our lives.

