



## The Judas Syndrome

Text:

### Mark 3:14-19

*14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,*

*15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:*

*16 And Simon he surnamed Peter;*

*17 And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder:*

*18 And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite,*

*19 And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house.*

### John 12:4-6

*4 Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him,*

*5 Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?*

*6 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.*

### Luke 22:3

*3 Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.*

### Luke 22:47-48

*47 And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him.*

*48 But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?*

### Matt 27:3-5

*3 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,*

*4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.*

*5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.*

### A Timeline to Disaster:

I know that I have read quite a list of Scriptural passages here tonight for our text.

But it is important for you tonight to have a firm understanding of the timeline and the chronology of one Judas Iscariot, for it is a timeline to disaster.

How does one become a "Judas"? What must occur in the spirit realm for a clean-cut, bright-eyed, enthusiastic follower of Christ to so quickly descend into the greedy, embittered traitor that Judas became.

How did he regress from a loyal disciple into the cynical, critical, cold and calloused outsider that faced the redeemer of the world and offered him a kiss of betrayal?

Judas would kiss the door to heaven and then turn around and walk through the gates of hell, not because of something that occurred overnight, but because of a slippery slope of greed and love for the world that superceded his love for Jesus.

Did Judas have to become the betrayer? No. If you believe that then you accept the Calvinistic theory of predestination, and you turn your back on the words of Christ that declare, "*It's not God's will that any should perish, but that all should come to eternal life.*"

Instead, I believe that the sub-terranean, underlying spirit of betrayal stalked the elite group of twelve close disciples, and as a wolf that picks off the smallest and the weakest, found the most willing victim in Judas Iscariot.

### **We are all capable of betrayal:**

Eleven of the twelve must have believed that they were capable of horrible betrayal.

#### **Matt 26:21-22**

***21 And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.***

***22 And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?***

According to his own gospel, authored by his own hand and the Holy Spirit, was their one disciple who was sure that it would not be him. For John 13 declares that their was a disciple who leaned on the bosom of Jesus and asked, without reference to himself, "***Lord, who is it?***"

### **Why even talk about Judas?**

Why do we need to more than casually observe the life and demise of one Judas Iscariot?

Because, though lying dormant, there is resident in all of us the same distinct possibility that we also would denounce, betray, abandon, and forsake the Christ of the Cross.

### **"The Judas Syndrome!"**

#### **Just look at all that Judas beheld:**

- **He saw the miracles.**
- **He heard the powerful teachings of Christ.**
- **If Judas needed proof and production, he had it.**
- **He lived in an euphoria of the supernatural.**
- **Everyday was Sunday, choir, anointed preaching, signs and wonders.**

(I've had people tell me, well, if I had a better preacher, a better church, if we had a bigger choir, or a more proficient youth ministry, I wouldn't have backslid. I DOUBT IT.)

Judas backslid with Jesus behind the pulpit, and angels in the choir, with miracles happening everyday, that only today's so-called faith healers can only dream about.

### **Was Judas in the beginning surly, antagonistic, un-cooperative? I sincerely doubt it.**

No doubt he was faithful, supportive, and heavily involved, or else he wouldn't have been given the position of the treasurer.

No doubt in the beginning, as long as the crowds were large and the bank bag was full, Judas was a loyal and cheerful follower.

As long as the miracles were astounding and frequent, as long as the church was in revival and excitement was high, Judas was a happy camper.

(I know folks just like that. Announce revival, promote excitement, have an attendance drive, give away prizes, miracles are happening, and the church is popping, and Judas is still in the pew.)

### **The Word Separates the Wheat From the Chaff.**

Jesus taught some unpopular doctrines.

#### **John 6:54**

***54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.***

In fact it was so unpopular that the Bible says-

#### **John 6:66**

***66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.***

(I don't believe that Judas left Jesus and the group at this particular time, but don't you know that he really wanted to?)

I can see Judas with glee, watch as a rich young lawyer approached Jesus, announcing "Jesus, I'll follow you."

Judas saw dollar signs, greater prestige, and an opportunity for this rag tag group of followers to step up into a higher echelon.

But don't you know that Judas cringed in horror when Jesus said to the rich man, "***You want to follow me? Go and sell all that you have and give it to the poor. He that would me my disciple must first deny himself, pick up his cross and follow me.***"

Judas saw the treasury bag getting lighter and the crowds getting smaller, and his disenchantment with Christ reached its zenith when a poor woman took an alabaster box, broke it open and poured out the costly contents over the head of Jesus.

Enraged, Judas stood to his feet and shouted, "What a waste! This could have been sold and given to the poor."

What Mary called worship, Judas called a waste.

### **Have you been affected by the Judas Syndrome?**

There is a deadly virus that has affected a lot of casual apostolics in these last days. I call it the Judas Syndrome.

- As long as the crowds are large, they're on board.
- As long as signs and wonders are evident, they're around.
- As long as the church treasury is substantial, and there's enough money for long trips and gargantuan feasts you'll see them.
- As long as there's the electricity of excitement in the air, they're in the pew.
- As long as the church is producing, people affected with the Judas syndrome are with you.

**But let the church encounter a storm, and like the rats that reside in the ship, when she appears to be sinking, they're the first ones to abandon ship.**

- Let a couple of Sunday's go by, and nobody has received the Holy Ghost, those with the Judas syndrome become scarce as hen's teeth.
- Let the pastor shift gears, and Wednesday night becomes in-depth Bible study, and Judas looks for another congregation.
- Let the church face a financial challenge, and those with the Judas syndrome loose their vision.
- When heaven demands cross-bearing and self-denial, the Judas Syndrome like a pin-point sniper takes a few out of the church.

**I have only one message to those with the Judas Syndrome... "It's time to sell out completely to Jesus."**

**John 6:67-69**

***67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?***

***68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.***

***69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.***

**Of the twelve originally chosen, only one never made it to Pentecost.**

**Those with the Judas Syndrome, get the buzz of the miraculous, and the slight tingle of the sensational, but they cheat themselves of the ultimate. Pentecost.**

Hear me tonight BEC. The church is going to go through struggles, sometimes it will appear that revival is absent, and the cup of the miraculous is dry, but just hold on, **Revival is coming.**