

JUDAS: A MAN JESUS CALLED FRIEND

Matthew 26:47-50

Introduction:

- 1. Judas Iscariot, the betrayer of Jesus, has always intrigued Bible students.**
 - a. Why did Judas choose to follow Jesus?**
 - b. Why did Jesus choose Judas to be one of His apostles?**
 - c. Was Judas foreordained to betray Jesus and had no choice in the matter?**
 - d. At what point did Judas turn from the Lord?**
 - e. Did Judas really repent when he returned the blood money?**
 - f. Could Judas have been forgiven if he had truly repented?**

- 2. What does the Bible tell us about the man Judas?**
 - a. He was a Jew from Keriath (Iscariot) which means he was the only apostle who was not a Galilean (Joshua 15:20-25).**
 - b. His father's name was Simon (John 12:4).**
 - c. He was chosen, along with eleven other disciples, to be an apostle (Luke 6:12-16).**
 - d. He is named last in the lists of apostles and the phrase "who also betrayed Him" follows his name (Matt. 10:4; Mark 3:19; Luke 6:16).**

Discussion:

- I. WHY DID JUDAS CHOOSE TO FOLLOW JESUS?**
 - A. We can only guess for the Bible does not tell us.**
 - 1. Perhaps Judas was looking for a Messiah who would lead the Jews in a revolt to overthrow Roman rule?**
 - 2. Perhaps Judas was impressed by the miracles he saw Jesus work?**
 - 3. Perhaps he really and truly believed in Jesus at the first?**

 - B. Jesus' treatment of Judas indicates that Judas was once a faithful and accepted apostle.**
 - 1. He was sent out to preach "the kingdom is at hand" along with the other apostles (Matt. 10:5 ff.).**
 - 2. He was given the same power to work miracles as the other apostles (Matt. 10:8).**
 - 3. Judas' example shows that even an apostle could fall from grace (1 Cor. 10:12; Gal. 5:4).**

II. WHY DID JESUS CHOOSE JUDAS TO BE AN APOSTLE?

A. Did not Jesus know that Judas would betray Him?

- 1. There were some things Jesus did not know when He was in the flesh (Mark 13:32).**
- 2. Jesus did know the nature of men (John 2:24, 25).**
- 3. He could also read men's thoughts (John 3:3,4; Mark 2:8).**

B. Judas must have been a good man when Jesus first chose him.

III. DID JUDAS HAVE A CHOICE IN THE MATTER OF BETRAYING JESUS?

A. Judas' treachery was prophesied in the Scriptures, but he was not mentioned by name in the prophecies (John 17:12).

1. The Psalmist foretold Jesus' betrayal by a friend:

"Even My own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate My bread, has lifted up his heel against Me" (Psa. 41:9; John 13:21-30).

2. Zechariah foretold Jesus would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12,13; Matt. 27:3-10).

B. The prophets simply foretold what GOD knew would happen.

- 1. GOD did not will it to happen, but He worked through Judas.**
- 2. Judas had free will - it was His choice.**
- 3. GOD can know what will happen in the future if He chooses.**

a. He does not force men to do His will.

b. He knows what men are, who will likely serve Him, and who will serve Satan.

c. Judas was the kind of individual who gives in to Satan.

d. He could have resisted the Devil at any point if he had wished to do so (James 4:7).

IV. AT WHAT POINT DID JUDAS TURN FROM THE LORD?

A. The first time a flaw is seen in Judas was in Bethany (John 12:1-8).

- 1. Jesus and His apostles were guests in a home where Mary, Martha and Lazarus were also present.**
- 2. Mary took a pound of a very costly oil and anointed Jesus'**

feet.

3. Judas demanded: “Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?”
4. He was the treasurer for the apostles, but he was also a thief, and stole from the money box.
5. Would he have been chosen treasurer if it was known he was already a thief?
6. People who have a weakness should not be put in a position of temptation if their weakness is known.

B. After this, Judas made his bargain with the priests to betray Jesus.

1. At the Last Supper, the Devil “had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him” (John 13:2).
2. He had already arranged with the priests to betray Jesus (Matt. 26:14-17).
3. When Jesus gave Judas the sop at the Last Supper, “Satan entered him,” and he did not resist him (James 4:7).

V. DID JUDAS REALLY REPENT?

A. When he saw Jesus was going to be crucified, he tried to return the price paid for the betrayal (Matt. 27:3-10).

1. He “was remorseful” (the Greek is “regretful”).
2. True repentance is not simply being sorry for sin; repentance is a change of attitude toward sin which results in a change of life:

“Godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted, but the sorrow of the world produces death” (2 Cor. 7:10).

B. Contrast the difference in Peter and Judas.

1. Judas regretted his sin and hanged himself.
2. Peter wept bitterly for denying His Lord, but served Him for the rest of His life.
3. Peter repented; Judas did not.

Conclusion:

1. Jesus called Judas “Friend” even when He betrayed Him with a kiss.
2. Judas could have been forgiven even then if he had repented.
3. We too can be forgiven if we truly repent and obey (Acts 2:38; 8:22).

