

### Judas Iscariot, the Blackest Name Known

When we think of Judas Iscariot and the identification "the one who betrayed Him," we never associate him with good. We have learned to think of him as a most despicable character. Many may ask why would Jesus select a character like this to be one of the twelve? Did he have the same power that the others had when they went on their preaching tour? This can best be answered by a careful study of his character as we see it in the scriptures.

Jesus had said: I have chosen you but one of you is a devil. Of the twelve, Judas was the only one not a Galilean. Of the twelve, he was chosen to carry the bag (serve as treasurer) John 12:4-6. He was a dishonest man who used the money for his own benefit. Here John says he was a thief, meaning, he often misappropriated the funds. Here he is a number one complainer. It was not his perfume that was wasted (used). What did he have to do with what the woman gave Jesus, it had not cost him a cent. Do we not have people today who complain about what is done for a leader (pastors often) and they do not give anything. Every pastor can count them by the hundreds who complain about his gifts and donations given by people who love their Shepherd. Here you have a clear indication of the type of person this Judas was. You are not far wrong when you classify him as an avaricious tightwad, Matt. 26:14, 15. What will you give me and I will deliver him unto you? Make a price. I am money mad. I will do anything for a piece of money. I will sell my Master, make me a price. Here he lays bare his soul, rips open his real self, shows who he is, an avaricious demon. When

Jesus said he was a devil in John 6:70, 71 He spoke truly.

When Jesus rebuked him for his criticism of Mary, instead of being moved to a better life, Judas was moved to resentment according to Matt. 26:14-16. Here he misapplies the intentions of Jesus, misinterprets the motive of his Lord.

From the time he bargained with the enemies of Jesus to the time he carried out his plot, he could have repented and become the man his high office demanded. But instead of changing, he sought opportunity to betray him. He spent his time seeking a chance to turn Jesus in, collect the cash and sit back for a long time and enjoy his ill-gotten gain.

At the Supper table, he still had time. Read John 13:2-30. Oh that Judas had only had a true heart for the high honor given him as one of the twelve. Read Matt. 26:21-21 in Moffat's New Testament or Goodspeed's. What a heart, what a mean spirit, what a hard conscience, what nerve. Read Matt. 26:47-50.

Your blood may be boiling but keep in mind the daily betrayals of friends so called. Many a man has been murdered by a so-called friend. Many homes have been broken by very close-FRIENDS. Look in your own community at the people who once were so close that a razor blade could not get between them. Look what happened.

What happened to Judas? Matt. 27:3-5. Acts 1:15-19. Now read John 17:12.

### Evaluation Report

1. Write your estimate of the life and character of Simon the zealot. Consult the work of Josephus for a complete record of the Zealots and their plan.

2. Write an evaluation of the business implications of Judas in the selling of Jesus.
3. Write an analysis of the character of Judas as seen through the scripture references given in this study.

Debate: Resolve that Benedict Arnold and Judas performed the same diabolic act.

5. Discuss the act of Judas then and what goes on in Christian groups today, as it relates to getting rid of certain officers.

### Study X

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## The Thirteenth Apostle

Acts 1:15-26

### The First Election in the Church

Today we shall discuss a new procedure and examine the wisdom and correctness of the procedure. We must decide whether or not the choice of a successor to Judas was divinely inspired or was the product of haste and the assumption of authority that did not rightly belong to the disciples. It seems from the scripture reference here that Peter brought the matter before the assembly and gave ample scriptural proof of their right to name one to take over the office left vacant by the suicide of Judas. Here is the first glimpse we have of what happened to Judas when he hanged himself and the awful death he died. Here also is given the names of those who formed the first nucleus of the New Testament church. Reread vs. 13, 14. There were about 120 whose names are not given. As to whether these were in addition to the ones listed above, you will have to decide.

Peter assumes the leadership, as many do in churches today. There are some people who are unhappy if they are not in charge of affairs. There are some whose natural abil-

ity and training make them leaders without being elected. There are some who see a job to be done and go ahead and do it. What do you think of these types of people? Some people go to a meeting prepared to direct and see that it moves in a straight line. Some people can command respect for their leadership ability. Many of us have been elected or chosen to position because we saw a thing ought to be done and went on and did it. Can you name such people in your church or community? Peter took charge and pointed out the need of some one to take the place made vacant by the death of Judas.

Peter suggested that one who had companied with them since the baptism of John and had seen Jesus and knew about the resurrection from personal knowledge be selected. Note vs. 21, 22. This seems to indicate that Matthias had done this. Had he been one of the seventy that Jesus sent out? Give proof for your answer. Was this a council of ministers, a house of bishops or a congregation taking things into their own hands? It seems to me (the