



The One Who Followed Christ but Never Became a Christ Follower

John 17:12

United Community Church

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“Judas participated in history’s most spectacular sin: the murder of Jesus” ~ John Piper

Questions about Judas Iscariot:

What is the meaning of his name? Judas is the Greek transliteration of the Hebrew name Judah meaning “Praise Yahweh (God)”. Iscariot refers to his birthplace which was Kerioth, a city of Moab.

How many New Testament verses specifically speak of Judas’ betrayal of Jesus? At least 31 times. <http://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Judas-Betraying-Christ>

Did the Old Testament prophesy about Judas? Jesus said in Jn 13:18 that Ps 41:9 referred to Judas. Luke in Acts 1:20 refers to Ps 60:25 as a reference to Judas.

Why did Jesus pick Judas as one of the twelve disciples? This one is hard to answer but here are a few possibilities (1) It is God’s will to do as He chooses because He is a Sovereign God. (2) It was in fulfillment of Old Testament prophesy and God’s plan for Jesus’ betrayal and death. (3) Jesus wanted to demonstrate the magnitude of His love and grace desiring that no one should perish. (4) To show that people could be associated with Jesus and even hear His message of salvation but never experience a transformed life. (5) To validate what Scripture says about a Christian (Christ Follower): “No everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” Matt 7:21)

When did Jesus know that Judas would betray Him? According to Jn 6:64, Jesus knew from the beginning.

Did Judas go to heaven because he followed Christ as one of the twelve disciples?

1. Judas heard the teaching of Jesus, saw the miracles & healing of Jesus, and followed Jesus as one of the twelve, but Judas never believed in Jesus as God's Son who came to take away the sin of the world which is at the heart of salvation (Jn 6:64).
2. Judas had remorse but Judas never repented meaning he never went to Jesus and asked for forgiveness (Matt 27:3-4). Jesus warned Judas numerous times to repent directly and indirectly (Matt 6:24, Mk 8:36, Mk 14:18, Jn 13:27-28).
3. Judas chose to reject Jesus' offer of salvation and chose to betray Jesus (Jn 12:4, 18:2, Lk 6:16, Lk 22:4, 6, Matt 26:48). Judas had many opportunities to change his mind: Jesus said, "What you do, do quickly" (Jn 13:27), when he talked to the priests (Matt 26:15), during the time he looked for the opportunity to betray Jesus (Matt 26:16), and even after he betrayed Jesus (Matt 27:3-4).
4. Judas' heart never turned from himself and what he wanted in life to Jesus and what Jesus could do through his life (Jn 12:4-6, Lk 6:16)
5. There is no evidence of a changed heart that led to a changed life - Judas had an external relationship with Jesus but there was no transformation. He was a thief whom Satan entered because Judas and Satan were walking the same direction (Eph 2:1-3)
6. Judas suffered the same fate that Satan will suffer in the end – eternal torment and separation from God because he chose to reject God as Lord. Jesus referred to Judas as the "son of perdition" in Jn 17:12. 2 Thess 2:3 referred to the Antichrist as the "son of perdition". The fate of the Antichrist is described in Rev 20:10-15.

What did Jesus ultimately say about Judas? "It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." (Mk 14:21). "The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!" (Lk 22:22).