



**THE JUDAS SPIRIT**

*vs.*

**TRUE COMMITMENT**

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*Outward following is not the same as inward devotion*

Based on the Gospel accounts of Judas Iscariot and the Apostles

## THE CENTRAL QUESTION

*"Can you walk with Jesus for years  
and still never truly belong to Him?"*

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Judas was chosen. Called. Commissioned. Sent.  
Yet his heart was never fully surrendered.

**This study traces the PROGRESSION of counterfeit discipleship  
against the PROGRESSION of genuine commitment.**

PART ONE

# The Judas Path

*Four Stages of Decline*

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*"...and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor." — Luke 6:16*

# Called But Never Converted

JOHN 6:64, 70-71

*"...there are some of you who do not believe." Jesus answered, "Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." He spoke of Judas... for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.*

## Jesus knew from the beginning

Judas had a BELIEF problem — not a knowledge problem

"Devil" = diabolos — one who opposes from within

**Warning: You can be in the inner circle and still be an adversary**

# Hidden Greed — A Divided Heart

JOHN 12:4-6

*"Why was this ointment not sold... and given to the poor?" He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.*

**Judas used HOLY LANGUAGE to cover unholy desires**

He was the group's treasurer — a position of trust — and was stealing 300 denarii = a full year's wages. This was habitual, not accidental.

**What you do with money reveals what you truly treasure (Matt. 6:21)**

# The Open Door — Letting the Enemy In

LUKE 22:3-6

*"Then Satan entered into Judas... He went away and conferred with the chief priests... And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him."*

## THE SEQUENCE OF BETRAYAL:



**Unrepentant sin creates entry points. Each step was a deliberate choice.**

*Ephesians 4:27 — "Give no opportunity to the devil."*

# Remorse Without Repentance

MATTHEW 27:3-5

*"Then Judas... changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver... saying, 'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.' ... And throwing down the pieces of silver, he departed and hanged himself."*

## WORLDLY SORROW (metamelētheis)

Regret about consequences  
Focused on self  
Leads to destruction

## GODLY SORROW (metanoēō)

Turning toward God  
Focused on restoration  
Leads to life

*2 Corinthians 7:10 — "Godly grief produces repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death."*

PART TWO

# True Commitment

*Four Stages of Growth*

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*"Immediately they left their nets and followed him." — Matthew 4:20*

# Called and Surrendered — Leaving Everything

MATTHEW 4:18-20

*"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him.*

**"Immediately" — no negotiation, no delay. Commitment responds.**

The nets = their livelihood, identity, family trade — not sinful things

True commitment surrenders even GOOD things when Jesus says "follow"

**Judas joined the group — but never left anything behind**

**KEY QUESTION: What nets are you still holding onto?**

## Tested and Honest — "To Whom Shall We Go?"

JOHN 6:66-69

*"After this many of his disciples turned back... Jesus said, 'Do you want to go away as well?' Peter answered, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.'"*

This was the "bread of life" discourse — so hard, most disciples WALKED AWAY

Jesus gave the twelve permission to leave — and they stayed

Peter's answer: not "things are great" — it's "there is no alternative"

**True commitment stays not because it's easy — because Jesus is irreplaceable**

*"Real commitment is forged in the moments when leaving seems most reasonable."*

# Fallen But Restored — Repentance Leads to Purpose

LUKE 22:61-62 & JOHN 21:15-17

*"The Lord turned and looked at Peter... and he went out and wept bitterly." ... "Simon, son of John, do you love me?... Feed my lambs... Feed my sheep."*

JUDAS

Denied with betrayal  
Sorrow ran FROM Jesus  
Result: Destruction

PETER

Denied with cursing  
Sorrow ran TOWARD Jesus  
Result: Commission

***Genuine commitment is not the absence of failure —  
it is the refusal to let failure have the final word.***

# Costly Faithfulness — Proven by Sacrifice

ACTS 5:40-42

*"They beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus... Then they left the presence of the council, REJOICING that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name."*

**The SAME Peter who denied Jesus now walks away from a beating — rejoicing**

They counted suffering as EVIDENCE of belonging — not of abandonment

True joy (chairō) has a source that circumstances cannot reach

**A Judas spirit exits when the cost gets high. The committed count cost and choose Christ.**

*"The final proof of commitment is not what you do when it costs nothing — it is what you do when it costs everything."*

# Your Title Is Not Your Testimony

Matthew 7:21-23

*"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom... I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness."*

**"I never knew you"** — Jesus is not saying He didn't know they existed. He is saying: we were never in genuine covenant relationship. You can prophesy, cast out demons, and do miracles — and still not belong to Him.

**Spiritual ACTIVITY can coexist with spiritual EMPTINESS.**

MIRROR QUESTION

*If Jesus were to describe your relationship with Him to someone else — what would He say? Would He say He KNOWS you? Or that you know ABOUT Him?*

# What Lives in the Dark Will Come to the Light

Numbers 32:23

*"...be sure your sin will find you out."*

Sin doesn't just reveal itself — it PURSUES you. Concealment leads to destruction.

1 John 1:7, 9

*"If we walk in the light... the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin."*

Walking in the light is an ongoing lifestyle of transparency — not a one-time event.

## MIRROR QUESTION

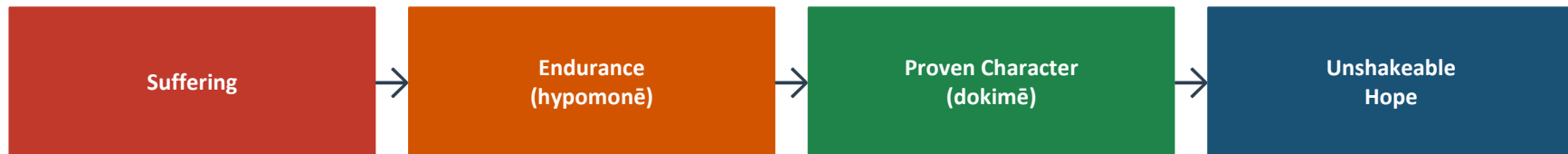
*Is there something you are doing right now that you would be devastated for your church or family to discover? That is exactly what needs to go to God today.*

*James 5:16 — "Confess your sins to one another... that you may be healed."*

# What You Do Under Pressure Reveals Everything

Romans 5:3-5

*"Suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame."*



**Endurance (hypomonē)** — active, forward-leaning persistence. NOT passive resignation.

**Proven Character (dokimē)** — like metal tested in fire. Suffering is God's quality test.

*Stop asking God to remove every trial — start asking Him: "What is this BUILDING in me?"*

# Grace Runs Faster Than Guilt

Joel 2:25

*"I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten... my great army, which I sent among you."*

**"Restore" (shalam)** — to make WHOLE, to repay in full. God doesn't just patch what was lost — He repays it.

**"My great army which I SENT"** — even the destruction had a sovereign purpose.

**Your losses, your failures, your wasted years are not outside God's redemptive reach.**

**Judas's sin was NOT  
too great for God's grace.**

**His tragedy was that he never brought it to the One  
who could forgive it.**

# What Will Your Life Produce After You Are Gone?

Galatians 6:7-8

*"Whatever one sows, that will he also reap. The one who sows to his own flesh will reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life."*

## SOWING TO THE FLESH

Investing in personal appetites  
Harvest: Corruption — decay, ruin, destruction

## SOWING TO THE SPIRIT

Investing in prayer, obedience, serving others  
Harvest: Eternal life — in quality and duration

*2 Chronicles 16:9 — "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him."*

**You are planting something every single day. What is it?**

## THE FINAL QUESTION

*"Search me, O God, and know my heart.  
Try me and know my thoughts.  
And see if there be any grievous way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting."*

— Psalm 139:23–24

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Every compromise is a seed. **Every act of integrity is a seed.**  
You will reap what you plant. **Choose the committed path today.**

*The Judas path is not a life sentence. It is a warning. And warnings exist so we can change course.*