

"Falling Away" Pastor Jason West March 24, 2024

Matthew 10:2-4 "The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him."

betrayea nim."		
I. What Led to the	Downfall of Judas	Iscariot?

- A. A Struggle With _______

 1. What's in a Name?

 The Judah Connection

 2. Where is he from?

 'Iscariot/ Kerioth'

 Acts 4:13 "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus."

 Psalm 10:4 "In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts."
- Psalm 10:4 "In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, 'There is no God.'"
 - 3. What Else Do We Know about Judas?

a. Called the	
(John 6:68-71)	

b. Judas is a Part of		Fulfilled
(Psalm 41:9; John	13:18-19; Zechariah	11:12b-13;
James 1:13-15; M	latthew 6:24)	

Psalm 41:9 "Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me."

John 13:18-19 "I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he."

James 1:13-15 "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God,' for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."

"I willingly believe that the damned are, in one sense, successful, rebels to the end; that the doors of hell are locked on the inside" (C.S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain, page 130).

B. A Struggle with Putting _	Before God
(John 12:4-6; Mark 14:6)	

John 12:4-5 "But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?'"

C. A Struggle with Hanging Around the	
(Matthew 26:14-16; Luke 22:3-6)	

Matthew 26:14-16 "Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, 'What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?' And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.'"

D.	Α	Stru	ggle	with	the	Influ	Jence	of		
							26-27			

John 13:2 "During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him,"

E. A Struggle with	
	atthew 26:47-50, 55-56)

John 18:1 "When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered."

F. A Struggle with	_ and the Refusal to Repent
(Matthew 27:3-10; Acts 1:18-19)	

II. Matthias Becomes an Apostle in the Place of Judas Iscariot

Psalm 109:8b "may another take his office!"

Acts 1:21-22 "So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection."

Luke 10:1 "After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go."

Acts 1:26 "And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles."

Proverbs 16:33 "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord."

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1. Familiarize yourself with the Passage and the Gospels

a. Read John 12:4; 13:2, 26; Luke 22:3; Mark 14:10; Matthew 26:14

Introduction to the Passage (Feel free to use this as a reference guide as you discuss the passage)

Historical/Literary Context: The origins of Judas Iscariot are widely known. His name "Iscariot" is probably a reference to his birth town, possibly Kerioth, although no one knows for certain where it was. Less likely is the idea that it comes from the Greek word sikarios meaning assassin or bandit, which would suggest he was a part of the Jewish zealots. He was the one disciple who functioned in disguise, claiming to be a follower of Jesus, but became the one who betrayed Jesus to the Romans (Mark 14:43-45). We see a glimpse of Judas' heart toward Jesus in John 12 when he objected to Mary pouring expensive ointment on his feet, in which Judas thought it should have been sold to make money to give to the poor, which was not a pure motive (John 12:4-6). He is always written last in the lists of the twelve, and typically mentioned with a negative phrase as the "one who betrayed him." This stigma is similar to Jeroboam in the OT who is typically clarified as the one who "made Israel to sin." Matthias ended up being Judas' replacement to make the number complete for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. There is no reason to think that Paul should have been Judas' replacement as some think, saying that they went against God's will. The disciples grounded their decision on an accurate understanding of Scripture, and they sought the Lord's will through prayer (Acts 1:20, 24-25).

3. Questions About the Passage

- a. What does John 12:1-7 tell us about Judas? How easy is it to cover your motives? How important are motives in the Christian life?
- b. What do you think Judas prioritized in life? Did he love Christ over money or vice versa?
- c. Jesus washed all the disciple's feet, including Judas Iscariot (John 13:1-11). What does this say about how and who we are to serve?
- d. Why do you think Judas went out and hung himself (Matthew 27:3-10; Acts 1:16-20)? What does this teach us about the Christian life and following Jesus?

4. From the Passage to Life

- a. As we look at Judas' life, he was not a man of integrity (John 12:6). Matthew, a Tax Collector, had a dramatic change and began to live an upright life. How are you living a life of integrity as you are following Christ?
- b. Judas clearly loved money more than Christ. Where is your heart regarding money?
- c. Do you struggle serving those who wrong you or do not hold your values? How can you mimic Christ in this way?

New Bible Dictiona	ry, Lexham Bible Dict	tionary, and Anch	nor Yale Bible Diction	nar