

John 12:1-11 | Am I Saved? Election or Reprobation.

Congregational Reading.

Matt. 14:14 'Jesus saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, "This place is desolate and the hour is already late; so send the crowds away, that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat!"

They said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish."

And He said, "Bring them here to Me."

Jesus blessed the food, and breaking the loaves He gave them to the disciples. They all ate and were satisfied. There were about five thousand men who ate, besides women and children.'

Prayer.

Responsive Reading.

Q1. What duty does God require of man?

A1. The duty God requires of man is obedience to his revealed will.

Q2: What rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

A2: The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

Q3: What do the Scriptures principally teach?

A3: The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

Prayer.

Sermon Text.

John 12:1-11 "Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving; but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him. Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor people?" Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it. Therefore Jesus said, "Let her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of My burial. For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have Me."

The large crowd of the Jews then learned that He was there, and they came not for Jesus sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He raised from the dead. But the chief priests

planned to put Lazarus to death also; because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus.”

Let me ask this present a question; **Does God determine all things OR** has God only determined some things, and those other things are determined by you and me?

I want to tell you today, that the low-tide of theology flows out on free-will, and the high-tide of theology flows in on God’s determinism.

If God is Sovereign, then He determines all things. If God does not determine all things, then He is not Sovereign. AND, if God is not Sovereign, then He is simply not God.

I want to show you today, that **we have two people** here before Jesus Christ. We have Mary and we have Judas.

We have a woman that has been created for the purpose of worshiping God AND we have a man, who has been created that He would be doomed to destruction by God.

And, as hard as this may be for you to reconcile, both of these are for God’s glory.

It is to God’s glory that Mary would come to recognize the great love of Christ, the great power of Christ, and she comes to worship Him.

It is also to God’s glory that a deceiver, a liar, a thief, and a betrayer all in one, would sell Christ to the Sanhedrin fulfilling prophecy of the OT and Atonement of our sin.

We have a woman who worships Christ and we have a man who betrays Christ. AND, through it all, we have Christ.

God uses what Judas intends for evil for the ultimate good of mankind. And though Judas is punished for his evil, that evil is used for God’s goodness to us who would put our faith and obedience in Christ.

Let me tell you, that Christ does not determine some-things and then we determine other things. We are NOT in a negotiation with Christ. **Christ determines everything.**

Is. 9:6 ‘For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace’

That is who Mary anoints with perfume AND that is who Judas betrays.

Mary worships the Son of God AND Judas shows His hate for the Son of God.

There is a **categorical distinction of every person** in the entire world. Every person is currently in one of two categories; **Divine Grace OR Divine Reprobation.**

Am I saved? This is the chief question. **Has Christ saved me?** This is top concern.

How can I know? How can I be confident that I have been saved for eternity?

This is the total concern of your life.

You must realize that God has created all people but not all people will be NOR are saved? How can you tell the difference?

Who has been elected to receive God's Divine Grace and who by the lack of salvation from sin, has been determined to receive God's divine wrath?

Can you see this throughout the Bible?

In the story of Cain and Able; Who was the saved soul and who was the reprobate?

In the story of Issac and Ishmel; Who was the Son of the Promise and who was the Son of the Bondservant?

In the story of Jacob and Esau; Who received the birthright and who comprised their inheritance?

In the story of Moses and Pharaoh; Who did God have mercy upon and who did God harden?

In the opposition of Balaam and Joshua; Who was Divinely protected by God and who was divinely punished by God?

In Haman's plot against the Jews; Who did God raise up and who did God condemn? Esther under the private leadership of her uncle Mordecai was raised up for such a time as this.

In the story of Saul and David; Who was the one doomed to destruction and who was the one whom God saved?

In the comparison of Gamilel and Paul; who died in their false religion and who was converted out of it?

In the story of compromise, both Peter and Judas denied their faith; one became a stalwart of the faith, the other committed suicide.

In this, Who determined all of these things? Would we be so flippant as to claim that we choose Christ on our own initiative?

All the World is Guilty before God.

Rom. 3:10 'there is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God'

The reality is that God has Sovereignly created all people, but He did not Sovereignly create all people for salvation.

The difficulty of this doctrine is what **binds up the testimony of the Gospel**. There is no good news without the bad news.

Vessels of Mercy and Vessels of Wrath. Mary is a vessel of mercy. Judas is a vessel of Wrath.

And though Mary makes the personal decision to worship Christ and serve Him, she only does this because God has already determine He would open her eyes to see the glory of God.

And though Judas makes the personal decision to betray Christ and hate Him, he does this out of the hardened heart that in God's wisdom, He has chosen to not redeem.

The Disciples Relation to Each Other

John 15:16 'You did not choose Me but I chose you'

Jesus to Nathaniel

John 1:48 'Nathaniel said to Him, 'How do You know me? Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.'

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, sees all things, knows all things.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, sees everything thought seed sown, and every motive of every heart.

Jesus knows all people.

John 2:25'Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.'

Who chose the Disciples? It was in accord with God's Divine Decree.

John 6:66-70 'As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also do you?" Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God." Jesus answered them, "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet **one of you is a devil?**"

Judas is that devil. Judas opposed Christ in the spirit of Satan. Judas became Satan incarnate.

Satan and Judas' relationship.

John 13:27 'Satan then entered into him/Judas'

Luke 22:3 'Satan entered into Judas who was called Iscariot, belonging to the number of the twelve.'

Now it's here that I want to show the modern distinct of those who serve Christ, like Mary, and those who betray Christ, like Judas.

At this point, here in this Gospel, it is necessary that we have a betrayer. It is necessary because it is the proximate cause of death of Jesus.

We need a proximate cause. Judas is that cause. It's not pleasant but it is true.

The spirit of lying always works through a liar. That's Judas.

But we find as the Bible progresses that that is actually to not be tolerate in Christ's church.

What was used to kill our Savior is never to be tolerated in our Savior's church.

The excommunication of people from the church.

Congregational Excommunication.

1 Cor. 5:1-5 'It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles... **you have become arrogant** and have not mourned instead, so that **the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst**. For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has committed this, as though I were present.

In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus,

I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.'

1 Tim. 1:17-20 'Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight, keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, **whom I have handed over to Satan**, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.'

1 Cor. 5:11-13 'But actually, **I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother** if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or **a swindler** – not even to eat with such a one... **REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES. (Deut. 22)**

Judas is this wicked man. He is going to be removed eternally by Divine Decree.

Spiritual Reconciliation OR Spiritual Excommunication.

2 Cor. 2:5-11 'Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave us the Spirit as a pledge. Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord – for we walk by faith, not by sight – we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

Therefore, we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Therefore, **knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men**, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are **made manifest also in your conscience.**'

Made manifest in your conscience – Cotton Mather, spectral evidence in the 1600's. God reveals Himself to us in our conscience. Not through Jimmy Cricket Theology, but that the Word of God, when taught clearly shines light on the conscience, making manifest the work of God in that person's soul.

How do people come to salvation? It is through the fear of the Lord. What persuades people? It is the very reality that there will be a day of Judgement before Christ.

Heb. 9:27 'it is appointed unto man once to die and then the judgment'
Jesus says 'God/He has given all judgment to the Son' **John 5:22**

Divine Rejection and Community Excommunication

Num. 14:20-30, 15:30 'But the person who does anything, defiantly, whether he is a native or an alien, that one is blaspheming the LORD; and that person shall be cut off from among his people.'

God pardons and God rebukes.

Psalms 1:5-6 'The wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.'

Standing is a sign of strength. The ability to stand in the judgment of God demonstrates not self-righteousness, but Divine Righteousness. Divine Authorization. Divine Grace.

Those who are wicked CANNOT stand in the judgment. Because God's judgment crushes them, it is not in their favor. Judas, is psychologically and spiritually crushed under the judgment of Christ, that's why ultimately he takes his own life.

God is a Spirit and His Spirit is everywhere. He will not be mocked.

Mary, though not perfect, is under Divine Grace. Mary is saved. Judas, is a product of Divine Judgment.

Prov. 22:2 'the rich and the poor have a common bond, the LORD is the maker of them all.'

Those who are rich in God's mercy and those who are poor unto Judgement, they have a common bond, the LORD made them both.

Rom. 16:17 'I urge you, brethren, **keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances** contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. For such

men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by **their smooth and flattering speech** they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.'

The disciples were unaware of Judas. How do you recognize a deceiver among you? Smooth talk and flattering speech.

What would be contrary to what Paul taught?

Deceivers, schemes do so under the guise of softness.

Pro. 27:6 'deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.'

Command for Pastoral Leadership to Excommunicate those who are bent on being factious.

Titus. 3:9-11 'But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.'

Eternal Excommunication.

So how is a person saved? How can I have confidence that I am saved?

We see it in this very passage, by confessing Christ, by following Christ, by resting in Christ, by serving and worshiping Christ, AND we see those who are not saved by betraying the things of Christ.

Of note, we should realize the proximity of evil to both Christ and the disciples.

The work of Satan is a clear and present danger. It is in their midst.

v.1 'Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.'

The Passover.

Came to Bethany.

Lazarus, raised from the dead.

v. 2-4 'So they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving; but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him. Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor people?"'

Pure nard – a perfume that was very expensive. Worth about an entire year's salary.

her hair – in an act of humility, she lets her hair down and uses her very hair to wipe his feet.

Made Him a supper.
Martha serving.
Lazarus reclining.
Mary worshiping.

Judas betraying.

These four types of people.

One serving. One reclining. One Worshiping. And one betraying.

Divine Grace and Divine Reprobation. Divine Approval and Divine Rejection.

Human Nature in its Fourfold State by Thomas Boston.

Augustine's outline of human nature: able to sin, not able not to sin, able not to sin, unable to sin.

Boston's on human: Primitive Integrity, Total Depravity, Begun Recovery, and Consummate Happiness or Misery.

In the 1700's in Scotland, practically every Christian household had 4 books; the Family Bible, the Short Catechism of Westminster, Pilgrim's Progress, and Boston's book, Human Nature in its Fourfold State.

Judas' Betrayal.

v. 5-6 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor people?'
Now he said this because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.'

**He was a thief. Character focus on Judas. The Betrayer/Liar/Deceive/ The Thief.
Had the money box. He was the Treasurer.**

Law Example.

Cain and Able – Mary and Judas
Saul and David –
Esther, Ruth and Naomi – and Mary (a long line of Godly women)

History Example.

Abigail

Prophecy Example.

Epistle Example.

Phoebe – 'as to the Lord'
Eunice and Lois – 'as to the Lord'

Jesus' Correction.

v.7-8 'Therefore Jesus said, "Let her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of My burial. For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have Me.'

Let her alone. Leave her alone. Leave the people that are serving, and worshiping, and reclining in the goodness of Christ; leave them alone.

Law Example.

Caring for the poor has always been expected by God. Of course that is not what

History Example.

Prophecy Example.

Epistle Example.

You always have the poor. Gospel evangelism is far more important than benevolence. Gospel advancement is far more important than feeding the poor. Gospel advancement is far more significant than mercy ministry.

You can fill a belly for a day and leave it desolate for eternity.

You can fix a building and never transform the tent.

You can provide temporary food and yet fail to establish eternal nourishment.

You have the poor always.

Those who are given earthly wealthy are given it by God. Those who have earthly poverty have it from God.

'the rain falls on the just and the unjust alike'

Free-will is a pagan idol. God determines all things. Blessed be the name of the LORD.

God gives and God takes away. Blessed be the name of the LORD.

Job 13:15 'Though He/God would slay me, I will trust in Him!'

The problems in our life come from God, and we praise Him.

The blessings in our life come from God, and we praise Him.

In all things we praise Him.

God is Spirit, and God's Spirit is always around us.

We do not know the way that the winds will shift.

We do not know how God will play on the heart sings of men.

God can harden a heart in a moment and God can soften a heart in a moment.

Let my people Go!

Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Love your neighbor.

Rich Young Ruler.

Matt. 19:19 ' Honor your father and mother, and, you shall love your neighbor as your self.'

Who is your neighbor? It's your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Love your enemy.

Matt. 5:43 'You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy but I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who spitefully use you'
If you love those who love you, what reward do you have?'

Luke 6 "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that, even sinners do that?"

Luke 6 "Love your enemies, do good, lend, expect nothing in return, and your reward will be great in heaven and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.'

Luke 6 'be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged, do not condemn and you will not be condemned, pardon and you will be pardoned.'

How often do we claim to be loving but are not merciful to others? How often do we like to claim that we are loving yet we cast 100 judgments on others? How often do we pardon ourselves but do not pardon others?

We uphold spiritual judgments without any precedence to do so.

If you have Christian love you will be merciful. You will have no interest in vengeance. Your interest will be in loving others and righteousness before God.

Often we are concerned with settling the score and reconciling the debts. Let God do that. He is a much better judge. He is very good at arbitration.

Let us concern ourselves with loving others. Let us concern ourselves with mercy. Let us concern ourselves with obedience.

And let God sort out those who do not love and those who are without mercy and those who do not obey.

Never forget 'we too once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy' Titus 3:3-5

Matt. 6 'Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven'

Love you enemy without letting anyone know about it. God knows. God sees.

Love them and pray for them.

Your enemies are the unredeemed. The Non-elect. The Reprobate. Judas. That's your enemy.

Your enemy is not someone that gets your sandwich wrong at the drive thru and your latte wrong at the coffee shop.

Your enemy is the Judas. The unregenerate soul. The unsaved.

And your commandment is to love them.

Do you think you have Christ's love in your heart? Here's the test, 'love your enemy.'

That's the test that binds up the whole testimony.

Christ loved Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, but even still Christ loved Judas, up to a certain extent. Up to the extent of his destruction.

The Son of Perdition/the one doomed to destruction – John 17:12

Do Good.

v.9-11 'The large crowd of the Jews then learned that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He raised from the dead. But the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also; because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus.'

Believing in Jesus is a matter of Divine Grace. Failing to believe in Jesus is an act of Divine Reprobation.

To believe in Jesus is to come into the Grace of God, to Fail to believe in Jesus is to come into the judgement of God.

'I and the Father are one'

Loving your enemy.

Benediction.

Rom. 15:5-6

Rom. 16:25-27

Small Group Questions

- 1. Election/Pre-destination and Reprobation** are concepts of the saved and damned throughout the Bible. How do we recognize the difference in the characteristics of people and God's work in their lives. **Ref. the distinctions between Mary and Judas.**
- 2. God loves both the elect and the reprobate but not in a symmetrical way.** Discuss the differences between saving grace and common grace. What is the difference of the application of saving grace and common grace? 'the rain falls on the just and the unjust alike'
- 3. Judas betrays Jesus** – 'what is meant for evil, God used for good,' but that doesn't mean that Judas is without punishment. How does God call us to deal with evil among the various spheres of God's authority (family, church, gov't). **Ref. Ex-communication and dealing with evil swiftly and directly.** 'purge the evil from among you' Deut. 21:21
4. Despite liars, thieves, betrayal, and enemies of Christ like Judas, we are called to 'love our enemies.' With the holidays approach and in daily life, it is certain that you will have enemies because of the Spirit that lives in you. How can you be renewed in a right Spirit to love those who persecute you and pray for those who spitefully use you?
5. Can you recall a time of your life when you were an enemy of Christ? **Ref. Titus 3 – Do you recall when God's kindness and mercy was made manifest to you and through the work of God you turned away from sin and came to love God, obey God, and love others the way God does.**

Email

John 12:1-11 | Am I Saved? Election or Reprobation "In this passage we see an introduction into the final week of Jesus Christ's earthly ministry. There are six days until the death of Christ. In this passage we see the actions of two people, Mary and Judas. One acts out of Christian love and obedience to worship Christ, the other acts out of animosity and vanity as hatred toward Christ. Mary is an example of a saved person, while Judas is the archetype of the unredeemed. The doctrines of Divine Election and Reprobation are seen throughout the Scriptures; can you see them here and see how God's Spirit highlights the difference in distinct lifestyles?"