

Discipleship According to Judas Iscariot

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What are the traits of a True Christian? How do we evaluate this?
Let's consider discipleship according to Judas.

Consideration of His Life as a Whole: Invisible in most of the Gospels. He is mentioned in the lists of disciples at the end of the list as the one who would betray Jesus. He was trusted and the keeper of the cash bag. He held a position next to Jesus at the final meal. The disciples never questioned Judas. Up until the betrayal in the Garden, the disciples didn't see Judas as the one. Spiritual hypocrisy can fool a lot of people for a long time, but it never fools the Lord of the church. Judas is not a surprise to Jesus. Luke 22:22, it went as God had determined. **Implications:** the most trusted and closest to Jesus, Judas was the most trusted betrayer, Ps. 41:9 & 55:12-14. It is possible to be trusted and not be a believer.

Consider His Great Experiences: there is nothing about his experiences, no record of a special calling (Mk. 3:19). He heard the cost of discipleship, heard Jesus' parables, teachings on the warning of riches and kingdom promises. He was sent out with the disciples to preach and heal (Mk. 3:14-19). He saw many miracles of raising the widow's son (Lu. 7:13-15), and Lazarus (Jn. 11:43). Jesus settled the storm (Lu.8:24) and walked on water (Matt. 14:23-32). He saw the feeding of the 5K and 4K, and was with Jesus for 3 years of ministry along with the 11 disciples.

Consider His Energy, Endurance, and Expectations: Matt. 10 & Luke 9, Judas was called and sent out. Judas heard the cost of discipleship (Matt. 8:18-22). He heard the preaching of the coming Kingdom of Heaven and suffered along with Jesus for 3 years. He continued with Jesus after many left Him (Jn. 6:66). The signs and miracles weren't enough.

Why did Judas follow Jesus? Because he believed in the OT kingdom theology and that Jesus would rule- He had kingdom expectations.

What is a sure sign of salvation? What was he lacking?

Consider the Turning Points of His Rejection of Christ: Jn. 13:2, the betraying of Jesus is in Judas' heart. **A possible point:** in John 6:70 after the feeding of the 5K when Jesus reveals there is a devil in the group of disciples. The multitude wanted to make Jesus King (6:15) but Jesus did not come to do that at this time. **A definite turning point:** the anointing of Jesus at Bethany in Mk. 14:3 and Jn. 12:1. She broke the alabaster flask of nard filling the house with fragrance confounding the disciples (Mk. 14:4, Jn. 12:4, Matt. 26:8). Judas was a thief (Jn. 12:6). Judas realized no kingdom was coming after Jesus spoke of His death (Jn. 12:27-36). Judas sells Jesus out for 30 pieces of silver which was 1/10 the cost of the nard.

Consider the Great Betrayal: Judas knew Jesus' private place of prayer and worship (Jn. 18:2). Jesus had washed his feet (Jn. 13) and was next to Jesus at the institution of the Lord's Table (Lu. 22:14-23, Jn. 13:18-30). Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss (Lu. 22:48). Judas had great guilt over his sin that led him to his doom (Acts 1:18-19, Matt. 27:4). The Jesus that takes away the sins of the world was not the Messiah that Judas wanted. Judas turned against Jesus with the same great energy, endurance and expectation and led him to his destruction.

A believer finds total satisfaction in Jesus' atonement for our sin and His death on the cross.

Further Discussion and Application

What is Paul trying to get the believers in Ephesus to do Eph. 4:1-6? What is the outcome of walking worthy of the calling on your life in verse 3? What is the purpose of the gifts given to the church in verse 7-16? What is the fruit of the believer in Eph. 4:17-24? What are the actions of the believer in their speech and love towards other believers in verse 25-32?

What are the marks of a believer in 2 Pet. 1:5-11? What is the abounding fruit of a believer? How do we demonstrate a sure salvation in verse 10? What is the source of our hope in 2 Pet. 1:2, 3?

What are the fruits of righteousness that demonstrate a changed heart? What are the desires of the old man that have been put off and the new man that is to be put on? See Rom. 6:11-23, Eph. 4:17-24, Col. 3:1-17.

This sermon confronted our most dear thoughts about ourselves. What are our motivations in following Jesus? What is the hope we have that leads us to purity as 1 John 3:1-3 shows? Do we have love for the brethren and desire to walk in unity? What attitude of the heart does it take to seek what is best for others and be humble? How does Scripture describe the one who has found a precious jewel in knowing Christ?

How can we use Romans 12 to better align our desires to doing what the Lord has commanded us? What does God expect our lives to look like as described in Rom. 12?