



WHY DID JESUS CHOOSE JUDAS?

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS





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Why Did Jesus Choose Judas?

SERMON REFERENCE: John 6:63-71

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2023

The name Judas is a name of infamy, disgrace, and treachery; yet Jesus chose Judas to be one of His twelve disciples. It was not a mistake, nor did Judas's betrayal catch Jesus off guard.

The words of warning, assurance, and comfort in John 6 tell us why Jesus chose Judas.

First, it was a lesson about religious hypocrisy and the need for true salvation.

“But there are some of you who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him” (John 6:64).

Jesus knows the difference between a true believer and a hypocrite—those who have trusted in Him and those who have not. Judas serves as a warning for us, because by all appearances, Judas appeared to be in the right. He had the right associations, reputation, and participation. But these outward things did not reflect what was within.

Hypocrisy can hurt, especially in ministry; but remember—the other eleven disciples didn't stop serving Jesus because of Judas. Nor should we let others' scandals keep us from serving.

Second, Jesus' selection of Judas as a disciple teaches us of God's divine sovereignty and the reliability of Scripture.

Long before Judas made the decision to betray Jesus, it was prophesied in Scripture; we can rest assured, God knew. Nothing is out of God's control.

Adrian Rogers says, “Where man rules, God overrules.”

Third, Judas' story is a lesson of personal responsibility and the tragedy of sin.

Judas was not forced to betray Jesus; the Bible clearly reveals Judas' shady character. Sin had deceived him; only after his betrayal did he realize what he'd done. Sin destroyed him. His soul was in remorse, and his mind was anguished. He was condemned by the very devil who enticed him.

Finally, Jesus chose Judas to illustrate the security of the believer.

Judas did not lose his salvation because he never had it to begin with. He was outwardly religious but had never been born again. On the other hand, Simon Peter, his counterpart disciple, was rough and spiritually clumsy; He denied knowing Jesus three times that same night. But Peter was eternally secure because he had been born again. God kept him, despite his sin, because Peter had put his faith in Jesus.

Life Application

Have you trusted in Jesus Christ? Adrian Rogers says, “You need to put your faith where God has put your sins: right on Jesus.”



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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The name Judas is a name of infamy, disgrace, and treachery.
 - i) Yet, Jesus chose Judas.
- b) John 6:63-71
 - i) In this passage, Jesus is speaking to His disciples.
 - ii) In verse 70, the word “devil” means “demon”, and Jesus is referring to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.
- c) Judas was one of the twelve disciples.
 - i) Jesus chose him.
- d) Fast-forward to the Garden of Gethsemane.
 - i) Matthew 26:36-50
 - ii) Jesus prayed until the sweat was on His brow like drops of blood.
 - iii) His disciples were asleep.
 - (1) They could not watch and pray with Him.
 - iv) Suddenly, there was the sound of muffled voices, clanking armor, and shuffling footsteps.
 - (1) The secret prayer place now was filled with people.
 - v) The priests are there.
 - vi) From the crowd, Judas steps forward and plants a kiss on the cheek of Jesus.
 - vii) In hypocrisy, Judas says, “Greetings, Master.”
 - (1) The King James Version says, “Hail, Master.”
 - (a) Matthew 26:49
- e) How did all of this happen?
- f) Did all of this take Jesus by surprise?
 - i) After all, Jesus chose this man.
 - (1) Was Jesus a bad judge of character?
 - (2) Did Jesus make a mistake?
 - (a) Jesus never made one mistake.
 - (i) Mark 7:37
- g) Jesus knew precisely what He was doing when He chose Judas, but why did He choose him?
 - i) Why did He put a crook in the ministry?
 - ii) Why would Jesus put a man like this on His team, knowing that He would be betrayed?
- h) In today’s message as we look in the Scriptures, we will find a word of warning, a word of assurance, and a word of comfort in the answer to the question, “Why Did Jesus Choose Judas?”

2) RELIGIOUS HYPOCRISY AND THE NEED FOR TRUE SALVATION (JOHN 6:64)

- a) Jesus knows who the true believers are.
 - i) He knows the difference.
 - ii) There are some people who just go through the motions.
 - iii) There is a line that divides people:
 - (1) Those who believe.



- (2) Those who believe not.
- b) In this verse, Jesus was not talking about intellectual belief.
 - i) The word “belief” here means “heart trust”.
 - (1) Jesus knew who trusted Him.
 - (2) Jesus knew who did not trust Him.
 - (a) If you don’t trust Him, then you are not saved.
 - (i) Acts 16:31
- c) This is the word of warning.
 - i) Many today are in exactly the same crowd that Judas was in.
 - (1) Judas had the right stuff.
 - (2) If we had looked at Judas, we would have said that he was a great man.
- d) The right associations.
 - i) Judas rubbed shoulders with the other eleven disciples.
 - ii) Jesus called him friend.
 - (1) Matthew 26:50
 - iii) Judas spent three-and-a-half years in the best seminary in the world, studying with the Lord Jesus Christ, learning facts and hearing Jesus Christ talk.
- e) The right reputation.
 - i) At the Last Supper, Jesus said that someone would betray Him and no one said that it must be Judas.
 - ii) They likely might have thought it would have been Peter.
 - (1) Matthew 26:21-22
 - iii) They trusted Judas so much that he was the treasurer of their group.
 - (1) John 12:6
 - (2) He was the man who kept the money bag.
 - (3) Who do you make treasurer?
 - (a) The person who has the most outward integrity.
 - (b) The person whom you respect the most.
- f) The right participation.
 - i) Judas was a worker.
 - ii) He went out with the other disciples when they went out to teach, to preach, and to do good.
- g) There are a lot of people like this in churches today.
 - i) They are in a Bible-believing church.
 - (1) They have a good association.
 - ii) Everyone thinks that they are a wonderful person.
 - (1) They have a good reputation.
 - (a) And they may be, outwardly.
 - iii) They do a lot of good things.
 - (1) They may sing in the choir, take the offering, or teach a Sunday school class.
 - (2) They have good participation.
- h) Matthew 7:22-23
 - i) This should be a warning to us.
 - (1) The devil had rather send someone to Hell from the church pew than he had from the gutter.
 - ii) Many people who go to church on Sundays have never been born again.
 - (1) No one suspected Judas.



- i) Many people have a form of godliness, but they have denied the power thereof.
 - i) This is the reason the Bible says to examine yourself and see whether you are in the faith.
 - (1) 2 Corinthians 13:5
 - ii) Don't think that because you are religious that you are going to Heaven.
 - (1) It was a religious crowd that crucified Jesus.
- j) Not only is this a warning, but it is also an encouragement.
 - i) The other eleven disciples did not quit serving the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (1) Don't let some Judas, some hypocrite, keep you from loving and serving the Lord Jesus Christ.
- k) There are hypocrites in the church.
 - i) There have been, there are, and there always will be.
 - ii) The Bible clearly prophesies it.
 - (1) The enemy sows tares among the wheat.
 - (a) Matthew 13:25
 - iii) Hypocrites come and go.
 - (1) Don't let some hypocrite keep you out of Heaven.
- l) Hypocrisy really hurts when it is in the ministry.
 - i) Many people are Hell-bound because of the scandals involving some television preachers.
 - ii) Every time someone points out a scoundrel in the ministry, it is only a testimony to the fact that God's preachers around the world have been standing true for the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (1) There are far fewer scandals in the ministry than there are ministers.
 - (2) There are hundreds of thousands of men preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - (a) Many are in little country churches who are underpaid, overworked, and unappreciated; but they love Jesus with all of their hearts.
- m) Judas was a hypocrite.
 - i) But Peter was not a hypocrite, neither was Andrew, James, or John.
 - ii) Don't let some Judas keep you from serving and loving the Lord Jesus Christ.
- n) This is a warning to the ineptitude and the weakness of the social gospel.
 - i) This episode in John 6 took place after Jesus fed 5,000 people.
 - (1) The crowds were clamoring for Him.
 - ii) John 6:47-51
 - iii) Every time a building is built to preach the Gospel in, someone will ask why the money was not used to feed the poor.
 - (1) When the Gospel is preached, the poor are fed the Bread of Life.
 - (2) They need Jesus.
 - (3) If all we do is to feed them physically, then they will be hungry again in a few hours.
 - (4) Jesus fed the poor, and we should as well; but people need more than that.
 - iv) Satan has taken the social gospel, which is not a Gospel at all, and failed to teach that men need more than soup and soap, they need salvation.
 - (1) They need the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.
 - v) Today, many churches have become glorified country clubs.
 - (1) They have their social programs, but they are not preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - (2) All they are doing is making the world a better place to go to Hell from.
- o) We have to live somewhere forever, either in Heaven or Hell.
- p) Jesus chose Judas to help us understand religious hypocrisy and the need for true salvation.
 - i) Jesus knew who they were who believed not.



- q) What difference does it make if a person is educated in a progressive school, wears nice clothes, eats vitamin-enriched food, and sleeps on a soft mattress, if he must rise in the judgment and face a God he does not know?
- r) We should do everything we can do to help alleviate human hurt, but God forbid that we should ever fail to preach the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
 - i) Environment is not enough.
 - (1) Jesus gave Judas a wonderful environment.
 - (2) Man got into trouble in the Garden of Eden.

3) DIVINE SOVEREIGNTY AND THE RELIABILITY OF THE SCRIPTURE (JOHN 6:64)

- a) John 13:18
 - i) Jesus spoke of those who needed to be saved.
 - ii) In this verse, Jesus quoted Psalm 41:9.
- b) John 13:19
 - i) "He" in this verse is "the Messiah".
- c) Jesus knew whom He had chosen.
 - i) He knew that there was one who did not believe.
- d) The Scripture said that this would happen.
 - i) This was not an accident.
 - ii) This was not as though something had gone wrong.
 - iii) Divine sovereignty has seen through the ages that this would take place.
 - iv) It was done so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.
 - (1) When they saw it, they would know that Jesus is the Messiah.
- e) Judas preached a message that Jesus is the Messiah.
 - i) Where man rules, God overrules.
- f) Judas had a choice.
 - i) God gave him a choice.
 - (1) Judas was not forced to betray Jesus.
 - (2) God wanted him saved.
 - (3) Jesus loved Judas and would have forgiven him and saved him.
 - ii) Then, why was it prophesied what Judas would do? Doesn't that mean that Judas didn't have a choice?
 - (1) No, God does not cripple a man and then blame him for limping.
 - (2) Where man rules, God overrules.
 - (3) We see one point at a time; God sees all at one time.
 - (a) There is one thing that God cannot do, and that is to learn anything.
 - (i) He knows everything.
 - (ii) How can you be omniscient and learn anything?
 - (b) God knew exactly what Judas would do before Judas did it.
 - (i) Did Judas have a choice?
 - 1. Absolutely.
 - (ii) Did God know it before time?
 - 1. Yes.
 - (iii) Did God overrule it?
 - 1. Yes.



- (iv) Is God still in charge?
 - 1. Yes.
- (c) We dwell in time; God dwells in eternity.
 - (i) The past, present, and future are all alike to Him.
- g) There is a word of warning:
 - i) Watch religious hypocrisy.
- h) There is a word of assurance:
 - i) Nothing is out of control.
 - (1) God knows exactly, precisely everything that will happen.
 - (2) We are on the winning side.
 - (a) Jesus shall reign.

4) PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THE TRAGEDY OF SIN (JOHN 6:64, 70-71)

- a) Judas was responsible for what he did.
 - i) He was not a machine; he was not forced to betray Jesus.
 - ii) The Bible tells us that Judas was a thief.
 - (1) John 12:6
 - iii) John 6:64
 - iv) John 6:70-71
 - (1) He betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.
 - (a) Matthew 26:15
- b) Sin had deceived Judas.
 - i) Matthew 27:4
 - ii) After Judas realized what he had done, the Bible says that he went to the chief priests and the elders and gave them back the thirty pieces of silver.
 - (1) Matthew 27:3-5
 - iii) He said that he had betrayed innocent blood.
 - iv) The deed that he had done gnawed at his conscience; it brought him to despair.
 - v) Sin promised much, but it paid little.
 - vi) The bread of deceit is sweet; but afterward, a person's mouth shall be filled with gravel.
 - vii) His sin deceived him, and sin will deceive you.
- c) Sin had destroyed Judas.
 - i) Matthew 27:3-5
 - (1) He took the thirty pieces of silver back to the court and threw it on the ground.
 - (a) They used it to buy a field to bury paupers in.
 - (i) Matthew 27:6-8
 - ii) He had remorse of soul, anguish of mind, and was fearful.
 - (1) The devil who had enticed him was now the devil who condemned him and accused him.
 - (2) Judas was not under Holy Spirit conviction; he was under remorse.
 - (a) There is a difference.
 - iii) Judas hanged himself as he tried to escape the Hell within him, he stepped into the Hell before him.
 - iv) Sin is not pretty.
 - (1) Judas, where are your friends now?



- (2) Judas, where is your silver now?
- (3) Judas, where is your power now?
- v) Acts 1:18
- vi) Matthew 27:5
- d) Sin had damned Judas.
 - i) Judas did not end his life when he hanged himself.
 - (1) People will say that they are going to commit suicide and end it all.
 - (a) But you cannot end it all.
 - ii) Acts 1:25
 - (1) He went to his own place.
 - (a) There is a place in Hell.
 - iii) Judas chose, and he chose wrongly.
- e) C.S. Lewis said that there are basically two types of people on Earth:
 - i) There are those who are like Jesus and say to God the Father, "Not my will, but Thine be done."
 - (1) They follow the Lamb.
 - (2) They love Him.
 - (3) They are saved.
 - ii) There are those who are like Satan and say to God the Father, "Not Thy will, but mine be done."
 - (1) Those who say to God, "Not Thy will but mine be done", when they drop into Hell, a broken-hearted God will say, "Not My will, but thine be done."
- f) 2 Peter 3:9
- g) God gives you a choice.
 - i) God gave Judas a choice.
 - (1) God knew what choice he would make.
 - ii) Judas made the wrong choice.
 - (1) He died and went to Hell.
 - (a) "He went to His own place."
 - (i) Acts 1:25

5) SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER (JOHN 6:64, 67-69)

- a) Some people state that they can't believe in eternal security because of Judas.
 - i) They say that Judas lost his salvation.
 - (1) But Judas never had salvation; Judas was never saved.
 - (a) John 6:64
- b) There was a great difference between Judas and Simon Peter.
 - i) John 6:67-69
 - ii) Judas was outwardly religious, but he never had been born again (saved).
 - iii) Simon Peter was rough and stumbling on the outside, but he had been born again.
 - (1) And God kept him.
 - (2) John 6:37
 - iv) John 6:47-50
 - (1) Judas did not believe.
- c) Why do we believe in eternal security?
 - i) John 10:27-30
- d) What was the difference between Judas and Peter?



- i) Luke 22:21, 34
 - (1) Judas betrayed Jesus and went to Hell.
 - (2) Peter denied Jesus, and he is in Heaven.
- ii) Jesus said of Judas, "It had been good for him to have never been born."
 - (1) Matthew 26:24
 - (a) If someone is not born twice (saved), then he will regret that he was ever born at all.
 - (b) The Bible says that Judas died and went to his own place.
 - (i) Acts 1:25
- iii) What about Peter?
 - (1) Luke 22:31-32
 - (a) Jesus never prayed a prayer that was not answered.
 - (i) John 11:41-42
 - (2) Peter loved Jesus.
 - (a) Weak and stumbling, he said, "We believe and are sure that You are the Christ."
 - (i) Matthew 16:16
 - (ii) Do you believe that?

6) CONCLUSION

- a) You need to put your faith where God has put your sins, which is right on Jesus.
- b) Acts 16:31
- c) If you do not get saved, then you are in the same category as Judas.
- d) There are only two categories of people in the world:
 - i) The saved
 - ii) The lost
- e) Matthew 12:30
 - i) You cannot be on the fence.
 - ii) Either you are in the Simon Peter crowd, or you are in the Judas crowd.
 - (1) The difference is faith.
- f) John 6:64
- g) Matthew 16:16
- h) John 6:37
 - i) That does not mean that God will not chastise you.
 - ii) It does mean that if you will give your heart to Jesus, then He will save you and keep you saved if you truly trust Him.
 - iii) This is not talking about just being religious like Judas, but truly trusting Jesus.
- i) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- j) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) John 3:16



Why Did Jesus Choose Judas?

SERMON REFERENCE: John 6:63-71

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Would you open your Bibles to John chapter 6 and in a moment we're going to begin reading in verse 63. And as you're turning to that, let me ask you a question. How many of you know a man or a boy named John? Or, how many of you know a man named James? Or a boy named Matthew? Or one perhaps named Philip. Or maybe someone named Andrew. Or maybe someone named Paul. I think most of us would say, "Yes, I know somebody with all of those names." I want to ask you another question; how many of you know a man or a boy named Judas? Probably not a one. You might know a goat named Judas, maybe a dog named Judas, but you don't know a boy or man named Judas. And if you do it would be a very rare name. But once there was a mother who held a little baby boy in her arms and kissed that baby face and called her little baby, Judas. And she loved him with all of her heart, but now the name Judas is a name of infamy. It's a name of disgrace. It's the name of treachery. And yet, Jesus chose Judas.

Look with me now in John 6 verses 63 through 71, "Jesus said, 'It is the Spirit that quickeneth, the flesh profiteth nothing, the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life, but there are some of you that believe not.'" Now that's a key, underscore that, "But there's some of you," He's talking to His disciples, "there are some of you that believe not.' For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not and who should betray Him. And He said, 'Therefore said I unto you that, 'No man can come unto Me except it were given unto him of My Father.' And from that time many of His disciples went back and walked no more with Him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, 'Will ye also go away?' Then Simon answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life and we believe and are sure that Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Jesus answered them, 'Have I not chosen you twelve and one of you is a devil?'" Literally the word is a demon. "He spake of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for he it was that should betray Him, being one of the twelve." He was one of the twelve disciples! Jesus chose him.

Now the scene is the Garden of Gethsemane. The night is dark. Jesus is praying till the sweat is on that blessed brow like drops of blood. He is in anguish, His disciples are asleep, they could not watch and pray with Him. And suddenly there's a sound, muffled voices, clanking armor, shuffling footsteps, lighted torches. That secret prayer place now is just filled with people. The priests are there. Their eyes are burning with hatred and anger. And from that crowd there steps a man, his name is Judas. He has a sickening grin on his face, but it cannot hide the treachery in his eyes. He steps forward and he plants a kiss on the altogether lovely and pure cheek of Jesus and he hisses out in hypocrisy, "Greetings, Master." As the King James says in Matthew 26:49, "Hail, Master." And that kiss must've burned like a coal from Hell. It was the kiss of betrayal. It was the kiss of death.

Now how did all of this happen? Did all of this take Jesus by surprise? I mean, after all, Jesus chose this man. Was Jesus a bad judge of character? Did Jesus make a mistake? Friend, He never made one mistake. The Bible says in Mark 7 verse 37, "He doeth all things well." He knew exactly, precisely what He was doing when He chose Judas. Question; well then why did He choose him? Why would He put a crook in the ministry? Why would He want a dirty doublecrosser to represent Him? Who would want a man like



this on His team, with eyes wide open, knowing that He would be betrayed? Well that's a good question. I think it's got a good answer and I think that you're going to find today like all of the Scripture that you're going to find in the answer a word of warning, you're going to find in the answer a word of assurance, and you're going to find a word of comfort. As we look in this passage and we ask ourselves and we look at related passages and we ask ourselves, "Why did Jesus choose Judas?"

Here's the first thing; there are four thoughts today. The very first thing I want you to see is a lesson concerning religious hypocrisy, **religious hypocrisy and the need of true salvation**. Now look if you will in John 6 verse 64, "Jesus said, 'But there are some of you that believe not.' For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not and who should betray Him." By the way, as He looks at this congregation today, He knows who the true believers are. He knows the difference. There are some of you sitting here today, you're going through the motions, you look just like everybody else. But there's a line that divides people today; those who believe and those who believe not. Now He's not talking about intellectual belief. The word belief here means heart trust. Jesus knew who trusted Him and Jesus knew who did not trust Him. Well, if you don't trust Him, you're not saved. For the Bible says in Acts chapter 16 and verse 31, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

Now listen very carefully, because this is the word of warning. Because there are many today who are in exactly the same crowd that Judas was in. You see, Judas had the right stuff. I mean Judas had the right stuff. If you looked at Judas, you would've said, "What a great guy this man Judas is."

For example, he had **the right associations**. Didn't he rub shoulders with the other eleven? I mean that's pretty good company, isn't it? He was intimate with Jesus. Jesus called him friend. He spent three and a half years in the best seminary in the world, studying with the Lord Jesus Christ, learning facts, hearing Jesus Christ talk. What association this man had.

And I'll tell you not only did he have the right associations, he had **the right reputation**. Now, when Jesus was at the last supper and He said, "One of you is going to betray Me," the people didn't say, "Oh I know who it is, must be Judas." The truth of the matter is, if they thought it was anybody, probably thought it was Peter. Jesus said, "One of you is going to betray me." They said, "Is it I? Am I the one that's going to do that, Lord?" Let me tell you how much they trusted Judas. Do you know what job Judas had? Judas was the treasurer. Judas was the treasurer of that little group. The Bible said in John 12:6, "He held the bag," he was the man that had the money bag. Now who do you make treasurer? The person who has the most integrity outward; the person that you respect the most.

I'm saying that he had the right association, he had the right reputation, and I'll tell you something else; he had **the right participation**. He was a worker. He went out with the others when they went out to teach and to preach and to do good. He was right in the group.

Got a lot of folks like that in church this morning. You're in a Biblebelieving church, you've got good association. You've got good reputation, everybody thinks you're a wonderful person and you may be outwardly. You were doing a lot of good things, you may be singing in the choir this morning, you may be taking the offering this morning, you may be teaching a Sunday school class this morning, you may be doing something wonderful. But Jesus said, "Many will say unto Me," this is in Matthew chapter 7 verse 22 and 23, "Many will say unto Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name and in Thy name cast out devils and in Thy name done many wonderful works?' And then will I profess unto them,



'Depart from Me, ye that work iniquity, I never knew you.'" That ought to be a warning. I want you to listen very carefully. The devil had rather send you to Hell from the pew than he had from the gutter. Many people trudge to church on Sundays who have never been born again. Nobody suspected Judas. "Judas, are you saved?" "I'm a church member." "I didn't ask you that, Judas, are you saved?" "I am a member of the best church, the one Jesus founded." "Didn't ask you that, Judas, are you saved?" "I'm a charter member!" "Didn't ask you that, Judas, are you saved?" "I'm the treasurer!" You can go to Hell surrounded by receipts for church offerings, baptismal certificates and Sunday school pins, my friend.

Listen to me, what a warning this is. So many people have a form of godliness but they denied the power thereof, and that's the reason the Bible says in Second Corinthians chapter 13 and verse 5, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be of the faith." Don't think that because you're religious that you're going to Heaven. It was a religious crowd that crucified Jesus! What a warning that ought to be to all of us.

But I'll tell you something else. Not only is it a warning, it is an encouragement. Now how could that be an encouragement? I'll tell you how that's an encouragement, because the other eleven did not quit serving the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't you let some Judas send you to Hell. Don't you let some hypocrite keep you from loving and serving the Lord Jesus Christ! Every so often somebody will say, "Did you know that there are hypocrites in the church?" I say, "Oh, do tell. I'm so glad you told me, I would never have known that, after fortyfive years in the ministry, that there are hypocrites in the church." There have been, there will be, the Bible clearly prophesies it. There are, the enemy sows the tares among the wheat. We bought some eggs a while back and one of them was a hypocrite. The other eleven were all right. You are going to find, dear friend, that hypocrites come and go, and like leaches, they cling to the hull of the good ship Zion, but onward she plows, and don't you let some hypocrite keep you out of Heaven.

And you know when hypocrisy really hurts is when it's in the ministry, doesn't it? That's when it really hurts. No telling how many people are going to go to Hell because of the scandals with some television preachers. A while back, you remember all of that? I don't need to uncover all that and go into all of that. But, let me just think with you for a moment. Have you ever been out at nighttime with a beautiful sky up there and then you see something blaze across the sky. Everybody says, "Look! A falling star!" And it hits the atmosphere. What it is is really not a star at all, it's a chunk of rock, and it hits the atmosphere and it glows and it blazes and it burns up and burns out. It's a chunk of rock out of orbit. Do you know why it's significant, do you know why people say, "Look! Look!" I'll tell you why they say that, because stars don't normally fall. Now listen very carefully. Every time somebody points out some scoundrel in the ministry and every time somebody says, "Look," it's only a testimony to the fact that God's preachers around the world have been standing true for the Lord Jesus Christ like the stars of Heaven.

Somebody was telling me the other day, "Oh, all of the scandal in the ministry," and one is too many. But I said to a friend, I said, "Name twenty." He couldn't name five. Name twenty. Friend, there are hundreds of thousands of men preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Many of them in little backroad country churches, underpaid, overworked and unappreciated, who love Jesus with all of their heart. You stay up late some night and you watch Elmer Gantry or some movie like that on television and you say, "Oh, yeah, whole bunch of hypocrites." Well I want to tell you, Judas was a hypocrite, but Peter wasn't and Andrew wasn't, James wasn't, and John wasn't. He's not and they're not and I'm going to be bold enough to tell you, I'm not. I love Jesus with all of my heart and don't you let some Judas keep you from serving and loving the Lord Jesus Christ.



I'll tell you something else. We're still on the subject of salvation. What a warning this ought to be as to the ineptitude and the weakness of the social gospel. Did you know when this episode just took place in John chapter 6? Jesus had just fed five thousand people. He fed the five thousand and the crowds were clamoring after Him and the Lord Jesus now begins to talk to them. He says, "Get it in focus." Look if you will in John 6 verses 47 through 51 of this same chapter, look at it. He says here, "Verily, I say unto you, 'He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life. I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness and are dead. This is the bread that cometh down from Heaven that a man may eat thereof and not die. I am the living bread which came down from Heaven.'" Folks, every time you begin to preach the Gospel, build a building to preach the Gospel in, somebody says, "Oh, why don't you give that money to feed the poor?" I am feeding the poor. The bread of life! They need Jesus!

If you were to buy everybody on Earth a hamburger, it would cost you twelve to eighteen billion dollars. In a few hours they'd be hungry again. I'm not against feeding the poor, Jesus did it, and we ought to do it, but oh, how the devil has taken a gospel which is called a social gospel which is not a gospel at all and failed to preach that men need more than soup and soap, they need salvation. They need the Lord Jesus Christ, they need to be born again, they need Jesus, the bread of life. So many churches today have become glorified country clubs and they have their social programs, but they're not preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and all they're doing is making the world a better place to go to Hell from.

Friend, we got to live somewhere, in Heaven or Hell, forever. And Jesus here chose this man Judas, I think, to help us understand religious hypocrisy and the need of true salvation. Jesus knew who they were that believed not. I mean, think about it, folks, the social gospel. What difference does it make if a man's educated in a progressive school? What difference does it make if he wears soft clothes? What differences does it make if he eats vitamin-enriched food? What difference does it make if he sleeps on a soft mattress? What difference does it make if he dies without pain with high-powered drugs? What difference does it make if he is buried in a memorial cemetery as beautiful as any park? What difference will it make if he must rise in the judgment and face a God he does not know? I'm not opposed to these other things; we ought to do everything we can do to help alleviate human hurt, but God forbid that we should ever fail to preach the glorious Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Environment is not enough. Jesus gave Judas a wonderful environment. Man got in trouble in the Garden of Eden.

Now here's the second thing I want you to learn. Not only a lesson concerning religious hypocrisy and the need of salvation, but there's a lesson concerning **divine sovereignty and the reliability of Scripture**. Divine sovereignty. Now look if you will in verse 64. You're in John chapter 6 and verse 64, "'There are some of you that believe not.' For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not and who should betray Him." Now, go over to John chapter 13, just turn a few pages there and look with me in verse 18. Jesus now is speaking of one who needed to be saved and He said, "I speak not of you all. I know whom I've chosen," now watch this, "but that the Scripture may be fulfilled." Don't miss that, "That the Scripture may be fulfilled, he that eateth bread with Me hath lifted up his heel against Me." Now Jesus there is quoting Psalm 41 verse 9, "He that hath eateth bread with Me hath lifted up his heel against Me." Now watch this in John 13:19, "Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass ye may believe that I am He." Who? The Messiah. Jesus said, "Look, I've chosen you, I know whom I've chosen, I know there's one who doesn't believe. He's a demon, but he said long ago in the Scripture, the Scripture said that this would happen. This is not an accident; this is not as though something has gone wrong. Divine



sovereignty is seen through the ages this would take place.” And He says, “This is being done that the Bible, the Scripture, will be fulfilled.” And He said, “When you see it, then you can know that I am the Messiah.” Did you know that Judas preached a wonderful message that Jesus is the Messiah, this ungodly rascal? That you see, where man rules, God overrules. Did Judas have a choice? Of course he did. Was Judas forced to betray Jesus? Of course not. God gave him a choice, He wanted him saved, Jesus loved him, Jesus would’ve forgiven him, Jesus would’ve saved him. Then you say, “If that is true, then how was it prophesied, how was it prophesied what he would do, that means he didn’t have a chance.” Oh, yes, he had a chance, of course he did. Do you think God would’ve crippled him and then blamed him for limping? No!

Here’s the thing, dear friend, where man rules, God overrules. What we see one point at a time; God sees all at one time. Did you know there’s one thing God can’t do and that’s learn anything? Think about it, God can’t learn anything. How could God learn anything, He knows everything. How can you be omniscient and learn anything? God knew exactly precisely what Judas would do before Judas did it. Did Judas have a choice? Absolutely! Did God know it? Yes! Did God know it before time? Yes! Did God overrule it? Yes! Is God still in charge? Yes! It’s an amazing thing. Human responsibility and divine sovereignty. You and I dwell in time. God dwells in eternity: the past, the present and the future are all alike to Him.

Now there’s a word of warning. Watch religious hypocrisy. There is a word of assurance. Nothing is out of control. Nothing. Nothing. God knows exactly precisely everything that will happen and I’m going to tell you, friend, we’re on the winning side. Jesus shall reign where the sun doth His successive journeys run, His kingdom spread from shore to shore till moon shall wax and wane no more.

Third lesson I want us to learn. Not only the lesson of divine sovereignty and the reliability of Scripture, but **personal responsibility and the tragedy of sin**. We’ve already said Judas was responsible for what he did. He was not a machine. He was not forced to do this. The Bible tells us clearly that Judas was a thief. Go back to John chapter 6 and look if you will in verse 64 again, John chapter 6 and verse 64, “‘But there be some of you that believe not.’ For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not.” And then look if you will again in 70 and 71, “Jesus answered, ‘Have I not chosen you twelve and one of you is a demon, a devil?’ He spake of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for he it was that should betray Him, being one of the twelve.” Now Judas was a thief, he betrayed the Lord Jesus; he sold Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. **Sin had deceived Judas**; after he realized what he had done, after he realized how deceived he had been by sin, the Bible says that he went to the Chief Priests and the elders and gave them this thirty pieces of silver back and he said in Matthew 27 verse 4, “I have betrayed innocent blood.” The deed that he’d done hangs over his mind like a veil of death. It gnaws away at his conscience, it brings him to despair. Sin deceived him, sin promised much, it paid little. Former pastor of this church, Dr. R. G. Lee, used to say, “You can eat the devil’s corn if you want to but he’ll, he’ll choke you on the cob.” That’s what happened to Judas. The bread of deceit is sweet, but afterward a man’s mouth shall be filled with gravel. His sin deceived him and sin will deceive you, friend.

Not only did his sin deceive him, **his sin destroyed him**. Read Matthew chapter 27 verses 5 through 7, he took that thirty pieces of silver back to the court and said to those priests, “Take it back!” Threw it on the ground and it rolled across the courtyard. They picked it up after he was gone to buy a field to bury paupers with. Judas slinked away into the night. We don’t know exactly how it happened, but we can piece some things together. He has remorse of soul, anguish of mind, he’s fearful and you see, the devil



who had enticed him is now the devil who's condemning him and the devil who's accusing him. Judas is not under Holy Spirit conviction now, he's under remorse and there's a difference. And he goes out there and somewhere hanging over some cliff he finds a scraggly limb and with trembling fingers he forms a hangman's noose. And he puts that noose around his neck and then he steps over that cliff, trying to escape the Hell within him, he steps into the Hell before him. The rope tightens, he hangs there, the breath is gone, the heart stops, but his soul is still in existence. He hangs there one day, two days, three, four, who knows how many, dangling at the end of that rope. His body begins to bloat, gases build up, the birds have picked the eyes from their sockets, his tongue is swollen and covered with flies, the stench is terrible; it's a ghastly sight. There, dangling from the end of that rope, finally somebody comes and sees him and takes a sword and just backs up and cuts him down and the body falls to the ground below, hits on the rocks, and it bursts like an overripe melon, and the entrails fall out on the ground. You say, "Good night, Pastor, who wants to hear that on Sunday morning. That's not pretty." I didn't mean for it to be pretty. Sin is not pretty.

His sin deceived him, his sin destroyed him, and the devil is guilty of false advertising. "Judas, where are your friends now? Judas, where's your silver now? Judas, where's your power now?" The Bible says in Acts chapter 1 verse 18, "Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity, and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst and all his bowels gushed out." I wasn't making that up; write it down, Acts 1 verse 18. And he did hang himself, Matthew 27 verse 5, "And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed and went and hanged himself."

And not only did his sin deceive him and his sin destroyed him, **his sin damned him**. Now let me tell you this folks, Judas did not end his life when he hung himself. People say, "Well I'm going to commit suicide and end it all." You can't end it all, you can't end it all. The Bible says in Acts chapter 1 verse 25 that, "Judas, by transgression, fell that he might go to his own place, that he might go to his own place." He didn't end it all, he went to his own place, there's a place in Hell.

Now, what have we talked about? We have talked about hypocrisy and the need of salvation; we have talked about sovereignty and that God is in control; and now we talk about tragedy and human responsibility, that Judas chose and he chose wrong.

C.S. Lewis is one of the finest thinkers of our generation, he's in Heaven now. But C.S. Lewis said, "Basically there're two types of people on planet Earth. There are those like Jesus who say to God the Father, 'Not my will, but Thine be done;' those follow the Lamb, they love Him, they're saved, they're born again. And then there's another characteristic, another category of persons; these are like Satan, not like Jesus, but like Satan, who say to God the Father, 'Not Thy will, but mine be done.' There may be some like that in this building today. There may be some who're watching by television like that. You say, "Hey, don't put that stuff on me, I'm going to live, it's my life, not Thy will, mine be done." Two categories of persons; those who like Jesus who say, "Not my will but Thine be done;" those who are like Satan, who say, "Not Thy will but mine be done." Now Lewis said, "When those who say to God, 'Not Thy will but mine be done,' when they drop into Hell, a broken hearted God will say, 'Not My will, but thine be done. Not My will.'" "The Lord is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." Second Peter 3 verse 9. But God gave you a choice, God gave you a choice, God gave me a choice, God gave you a choice, God gave Judas a choice, God knew what choice he would make, but nonetheless he had a choice and he blew it! And he died and went to Hell, "He went to his own place."



Sin deceived him, sin destroyed him, sin damned him. And one last thing I want us to see, I want us to see not only the tragedy of sin, but I want us to see **the security of the believer**. You know, every now and then somebody will say, "You know, Pastor Rogers, one of the reasons I can't believe in eternal security is because of Judas. Judas lost his salvation." Have you been listening, folks, Judas never had any salvation. Judas never was saved. The Bible says in verse 64, "Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not." Now there's a great difference that day between Judas and Simon Peter. Look down in verse 67, "And Jesus said unto the twelve, 'Will ye also go away?' Then Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life,'" now watch this, "'and we believe and are sure that Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.'" Two categories there that day; Judas, outwardly religious but had never had a new birth, who had never been born again, and Simon Peter, rough, stumbling, but he was there and God kept him. Look if you will, go back and look in verse 37, chapter 6 verse 37, watch this, "All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me," now watch this, "and him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out." Isn't that great? That was a good place for an Amen. Alright, now look in verse 47 through 50 if you will, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, 'He that believeth on Me,'" now remember, Judas didn't believe, "Verily, verily I say unto you, 'He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life. I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness and are dead. This is the bread that cometh down from Heaven that a man may eat thereof and not die.'"

Why do I believe in eternal security? Because again in John chapter 10, just a few verses later in verses 27 through 30, Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice and I know them and they follow Me and I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. My Father which gave them Me is greater than all and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one." What was the difference between Judas and Peter? If you read when you get home Luke chapter 22, in verse 21 and verse 34, you're going to find out in that chapter that Jesus said, "One's going to betray Me and one's going to deny Me." Judas betrayed Jesus and went to Hell. Peter denied Jesus and he's in Heaven. What was the difference? In Matthew 26 verse 24, Jesus said of Judas, "It had been good for that man if he had never been born." Now listen, if you don't get born twice, you're going to rue the day you were ever born at all. "Been good for that man if he had never been born." The Bible says, "He died and went to his own place." But about Peter? Jesus said in Luke 22 verses 31 and 32, "Peter, Satan has desired you that he may sift you as wheat, but I've prayed for you that your faith fail not." Isn't that great? Did Jesus ever pray a prayer that wasn't answered? Of course not! In John chapter 11 verses 41 and 42, He said, "Father, I thank You, You always hear Me." You see, "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose, I will never, no never desert to his foes. That soul, though all Hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake." You and I, had we been there, we'd have said, "Oh, Peter, he's lost, but you know, Peter loved Jesus." Weak, stumbling, but he said, "We believe and are sure that You're the Christ." Do you believe that?

Let me tell you something, folks. You need to put your faith where God has put your sins, right on Jesus; right on Jesus. Clearly, plainly, wonderfully, simply, gloriously, the Bible says in Acts 16:31, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

You say, "Well, Pastor Rogers, I am not a Judas." I'm glad you're not. I'm going to tell you this, if you don't get saved, you're in the same category as Judas. There are only two categories of people in the world: the saved and the lost. That's all. Matthew chapter 12 verse 30, Jesus said, "He that is not with Me is against



Me, and he that gathers not with Me scatters abroad.” You can’t be on the fence. You’re in the Simon Peter crowd or you’re in the Judas crowd and the difference is faith. “Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not.” Simon Peter said, “We believe and are sure that You are the Son of God.” And Jesus said, “When a man believes on Me, I will in no wise cast him out.” Now that doesn’t mean that God won’t chastise you. It doesn’t mean He won’t carry you to the woodshed, but it does mean, dear friend, that if you’ll give your heart to Jesus, He will save you and He’ll keep you saved. If you truly trust Him, I’m not talking about just being religious like Judas. I’m talking about truly trusting Him.

So, there’s a message concerning hypocrisy, there’s a message concerning sovereignty, there’s a message concerning responsibility, there’s a message concerning security. Maybe that’s why Jesus chose Judas.

Let’s bow our heads in prayer. Father God, oh, God, we humble ourselves today. Lord, I pray that many will say an everlasting, “Yes,” to Jesus. Lord, many who are stumbling and weak like old Simon Peter, Lord that they just might come and say, “Yes,” to Jesus and trust Him and be saved. Oh, God, open hearts. Lord, they cannot come apart from the work of your dear Holy Spirit, so draw them, Lord, to You. Open hearts, save souls, I pray. This is Your work, Lord.

If you’re not certain that you’re saved, would you like to be saved, would you? Would you like to know that you really do have life? Jesus said, “I’ve come that you might have life.” Could I lead you in a prayer? We’ll call this prayer the sinner’s prayer. And you can pray and accept Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. You can do it right now. Would you pray this prayer? “Dear God, I know that You love me. Thank You for loving me. And I know that You want to save me. Jesus, You died to save me and You promised to save me if I would trust You. Jesus, I do trust You. I believe You’re the Son of God. I believe you paid for my sin with Your blood on the cross. I believe that God raised You from the dead. And now I receive You as my Lord and Savior. Forgive my sin. Cleanse me. Come into my life. Take control of my life and begin today to make me the person You want me to be. And Jesus, give me the courage to make it public. Help me never to be ashamed of You. In Your name I pray, Amen.”



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