

How much do you love God? Discipleship is loyalty to the One and ONLY master?

1- Judas, the disciple

Shall we be grateful to Judas for betraying Jesus or he deserves the gloomy reputation

Beside his fame as a traitor, Judas is the least known of the apostle because of the lack of information about him in the Bible.

His name Iscariot is rather intriguing than informative.

- It could possibly be his surname as John may be indicating. John 12: 4; John 6:70 -71
- It could be a nickname resulting from a corrupted Latin word *Sicarius* meaning murderer.
- It could also mean *Ish Kerioth* in Hebrew meaning the man from Kerioth, a city in Judah. Joshua 15:25 making Judas to be the only apostle not from Galilee

2- Judas, the traitor

Luke described him as a traitor. Luke 6:16

Mark, Matthew and John described him as a betrayer. Mat 10:4; Mark 3:19, John 6: 64, 70-71

Was Judas born to betray Jesus?

The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born." Mt 26: 24

Was this prophecy waiting to be fulfilled in Judas?

Jesus knew he was going to be betrayed. John 13:18; Psalm 41:9

He knew that Judas was going to betray him John 6:64.

Does this mean Judas was condemned to betray Jesus?

Judas like the other apostles was given powers and authority under Jesus' direction.

He was ordained to preach the kingdom of God, heal the sick, cast demons. Luke 9:1; Mt. 10:5-8

Peter acknowledged that Judas had a share in the ministry Acts 1:17

Judas was the treasurer of the team. John 13:29

Judas wasn't born a traitor, he became one; Luke 6:16.

The teenagers travelling to join ISIS in Syria were not born to become terrorist.

Application: bad choices can lead someone to be something they are not meant to be.

Judas ends up being destroyed by his sin as he committed suicide.

The purchase of the field with the money of the betrayal was a fulfilment of two prophecies; one by Jeremiah (Je.19:6) and the other by Zechariah (Zec. 11:8b-12). Matthew cites Jeremiah but quotes Zachariah 11:13, Mat 27: 9

The problem of suicide: the death of Judas is an opportunity to reflect on the issue of suicide in the society.

About 6000 suicide in the UK between 2017 - 18

Suicide is more frequent amongst people aged between 45 and 49;

¾ of suicide is amongst men.

We are part of each other; suicide of one affects others; it hurts the society as whole.

Ubuntu: African philosophical concept of a human being. **A person is a person through other persons.**

Theological reflection: How do we address the challenge of Christians committing suicide. Does ending one's own life condemns a Christian to hell?

Application: significant relationships are valuable for suicidal people. We need to cause them feel they are not alone (Lets cultivate a sense of community)

3- Why did Judas betray Jesus?

Various suggestions:

- He was a patriotic freedom fighter and got disillusioned with Jesus reluctance to challenge the Roman authorities.
- He genuinely believed that Jesus was a messiah and betraying him would prompt him to display his messianic power against the Romans.
- In the apocryphal Gospel of Judas, it is indicated that Jesus instructed Judas to report him to the authority so that Jesus' spiritual self will escape the prison of the material body – Gnosticism.

It is impossible to establish why Judas betrayed Jesus. The Gospels attribute Judas' action to the influence of Satan. Lk. 22:3; Jn. 13:27.

4- The mode of operation of Satan

Judas opened the door and he was invaded by the enemy.

Greed? Mt 26:14-16

Dishonesty? John 12:4-6

Hypocrisy? Mt 26:25

Malice?

Application: Sin is deceptive and weakening but has no power over the love of God! Jesus was not distracted by Judas plan.

The devil doesn't introduce himself to Adam and Eve as a devil, he suggested a normal regular conversation.

Never pick up "phone call" from Satan or answer his "WhatsApp message".

God's answer to Adam is revealing: who told you that you are naked?
With whom have you been hanging out?

What the enemy wants is only an open door. Once the door opens, he engages in conversation with you.

Application: Surrendering one's life to Satan make you insensitive even to the ultimate demonstration of love: Judas was face to face with God's love but couldn't resist the drive to do evil - betraying Jesus.

The 11 other apostles have certainly been tempted but they resisted and remain loyal to the master. We have the grace as disciples of Jesus today, to resist the enemy the same way.