

Judas

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Matt. 10:2-8. "Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The 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 publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give."

Have you considered Judas? He was one of the apostles of the Lord, just as were the other eleven. Judas heard the same teachings, saw the same miracles, and shared in everything that they all had. The point is that he had the same opportunities that the others had.

Judas preached the Word of God! Judas performed miracles! I don't know the exact sermons that he preached or what kind of speaker he was, but he preached. People were blessed by the truth of God's word. I wonder what he thought as he saw people come to believe in Jesus. What about his own faith?

Judas performed miracles in the name of the Lord. They were empowered to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils, and even to raise the dead! He was one of the chosen men who was able to do this. Just think of it. To be able to do the same works that Jesus did. How could he be used of the Lord in such a way and with such power and then betray Jesus?

In **1 Corinthians 10:12** we have this warning. "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall!" The warning is to not take God's Word lightly. A person can get puffed up in his own mind and think that he is better than he is. In verse twelve it says, "thinketh he standeth". He isn't where he ought to be with the Lord, but he thinks he is. That is trusting in self, not in the Lord. This and other warnings are not to be taken lightly. The Lord warns us, but it is up to us to take heed and to obey. Judas didn't want to follow the Lord as much as he wanted the silver that was offered to him. How many could say, like Judas, that they made a bad deal

and wanted to undo it.

They that are saved have a wonderful blessing. We are forgiven of sin and can go to live with the Lord forever. However, we must follow Jesus and obey His word. Do we follow Him when it suits us or everyday, no matter what the cost? I'm sure Daniel, and many others, didn't desire to go to face danger and death for their faith, but they did.

Judas followed the Lord, but only so far. There came a day when the temptation matched his lust for money. Remember, the scripture says he was a thief and bare the bag of money. He fell by transgression when he took his mind off Jesus and lusted for money. He got it, all thirty pieces of silver, but look at what it cost him.

Keep your heart and mind on the Lord and don't be led away by the lure of the world. Listen to the Word of God and not to teachings that turn from the truth. There are many who say sin is no big deal and not to worry about it. Look how many times the Lord tells us to take heed, to beware, and to resist the devil. If we take heed to hear and obey Jesus we will get to heaven. If we don't obey what He said then we won't make it, no matter what man says.

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BY JOHN LEHTI

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JERUSALEM: ANCIENT FORTRESS WHICH STOOD UNCONQUERED IN THE HEART OF ISRAEL SINCE THE DAYS OF JOSHUA, WAS FINALLY TAKEN 500 YEARS LATER BY THE NEWLY ANOINTED KING DAVID (CIRCA 1000 B.C.)....

...THE JEBUSITES, WHO LIVED IN THIS STRONGHOLD HIGH ON MT. ZION, WERE SO CONFIDENT THEIR FORTRESS COULD NOT BE SUCCESSFULLY ASSAULTED THAT THEY INSULTED DAVID'S ARMY BY ONLY MANNING THE WALLS AND BATTLEMENTS WITH MEN WHO WERE BLIND AND PITIFULLY LAME!

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