

Judas, One of The Twelve

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Matthew 26:47-48. "And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast."

Judas is quite a character in the bible. Some people talk like he was some sort of oddball that stood out from all the rest of the disciples, but did he? Did he look like a criminal, who would betray the Lord, or anyone, for a coin, or two? Judas looked, and acted, pretty much like the rest of the followers of Jesus. Remember when Jesus said that one of them would betray him, no one turned and pointed at Judas, rather each one said, "Is it I?"

Judas, to the eyes of man, looked like any other man. In the gospels we see that he was treated like the other disciples. He was sent to preach and had the power to heal just like the other eleven. I wonder how he preached and how many he was able

to heal. It's hard to picture him doing these things when we see how he ended up. Judas had a free will and made his choices in life just like you and I do. He may well have liked the things of God, but he also loved the money and the things of this world.

When Jesus taught the disciples, they all heard the same message. I wonder if Judas listened closely to the words of Jesus, or was he thinking of other things. The others had the same opportunity but, while they may not have understood it all, none of them betrayed Jesus to the Jews. The priests would have welcomed an offer from any of them, but Judas was the one who went to them.

No, looking at Judas would not have told what was in his heart, any more than looking at anyone else. An older preacher told me once that he could look at a crowd and tell who was a Christian, but I didn't believe it then, or now. By their actions we might get an idea of what some think, but only the Lord knows what is really inside man. A person may look at though he is interested in the sermon, but be thinking of something totally different. Jesus didn't say that anyone would be able to tell his

servants by looking at them. He said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another," (**John 13:35**) and, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (**Matthew 5:16**.)"

Judas proves the point that Jesus made when he said that no man can serve two masters. Trying to follow the Lord and to deal with the world for profit caused Judas to become a traitor. The bible shows that he would have loved to undo the deal with the priests but it was too late. Many of us have likewise wished we could undo things we have done, but could not any better than Judas. We can, and have, asked the Lord for forgiveness, where Judas didn't.

Judas looked the part of a good man until the last, fooling the other disciples. No one but the Lord knew what he was in his heart. **John 13: 11.** For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean. Let us remember this, as the Lord knew the heart of Judas, so he knows your heart and mine too. There is a song that asks a good question - "Is thy heart right with God?"

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NOTWITHSTANDING THE ERRORS, THE BIBLE, IN THE THOUSANDS OF EDITIONS PUBLISHED AND THE MANY MILLIONS OF COPIES THAT HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED, CONTINUES TO BRING TO HUMANITY THE SPIRITUAL AND MORAL VALUES SO NEEDED BY THE WORLD AT LARGE!

NEXT WEEK: WOMEN'S LIB IN THE BIBLE?!!

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