

Going To His Own Place.

Acts 1:25.

Sunday morning, July 5, 2009.

I. Judas' fall...

A. Judas Iscariot was the only disciple who was not a Galilean. He was, as his name suggests, from the town of Kerioth, located in southern Judea.

B. Judas held a place of prominence among the disciples.

1. He was their treasurer. John 12:6.

2. During the last supper the disciple John asked the Lord, at the instigation of Peter, who it was that would betray Him.

The Lord answered that it was he to whom He would give a piece of bread after He dipped it.

Since it was customary to be reclined at the table, it is likely that Judas was right beside the Lord, opposite the side where John was. At any rate, Judas was within arm's reach of the Lord. This would be another indication of the prominence Judas held among the group.

Application:

Consider this picture of the Lord in the days of His flesh: Seated between the disciple who loved Him, John, and on the other side the disciple who no longer had no use for Him, and would sell Him into His death, for the price of a common slave.

So is the Lord Jesus still. At His table He meets with disciples of all different kinds.

It was after Judas received the piece of bread that Satan entered him, and he went out into the night. John 13:27,30.

Two things ought to be remembered here:

1. The need for self examination and our need for grace to partake worthily.

2. As the Lord Jesus was, so are we in the presence of all kinds of disciples.

Both for the Lord Jesus and for us the truth applies: "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies." Psalm 23:5.

C. The Lord must have seen potential and promise in Judas early on to have chosen Him among the 12 disciples. Yet midway into His ministry the Lord was able to say, speaking of Judas: "One of you is a devil." John 6:70.

D. It is difficult to pinpoint the exact motivation in Judas as to what drove him to betray the Lord. We have however some generalities:

1. Judas was possessed by a temporal value system. It was all about what was in it for him. He held the money box and was a thief. And he sold the Lord for the price of a common slave. (Only about \$25.00).

2. As the Lord continued to talk about His impending suffering and death as they approached Jerusalem, the truth that the Lord's kingdom would not immediately appear must have led to disillusionment in Judas.

At some point Judas reached the decision to give up on Jesus; to cut his losses, and to sell the Lord for thirty pieces of silver.

II. Caused by his own will and way...

However Judas' demise came about in the details, at the bottom of it all were two foundational attitudes that led him there.

A. Judas' temporal value system. What Judas wanted out of following Jesus. The sum of Judas' expectations.

No doubt Judas had aspirations of power and position; of riches and honor and opportunities. Did not all the disciples have thoughts of this? Mark 9:33,34.

1. Jesus did not deliver on these expectations. He took His disciples down an altogether different path. He downright disappointed them.
2. All those visions and dreams of grandeur ended up on the cross with Jesus, and in a real sense the disciples were here "crucified with Christ." They died to their own visions of grandeur; their own expectations.

Application:

What about you? Has Jesus delivered on your expectations of what it should be like to be a disciple of Jesus? Be careful how you respond. Does the disciples' path seem vaguely familiar to you?

B. The second foundational attitude in Judas' soul was that Judas reserved the right to himself to make all final decisions. At the end of the day Judas wanted to be able to say with Frank Sinatra, "I did it my way." This led him to make the decision to abandon the Lord Jesus, and to sell Him for 30 pieces of silver.

In summary: Judas was in the grips of subjectivism.

Application:

One of the most urgent matters for us in the Christian life is to learn to yield our expectations, and the right to make final decisions to the Lord. This is only learned in the environment of our union with the cross of Christ. Apart from that environment all such yielding is only an academic exercise .

III. Led him to his own place.

A. Our own will and way can lead us only to "our own place."

That is the place of eternal darkness; of separation and of loss.

B. This place must be understood in contrast to the place of which the Lord Jesus spoke when He said, "I go and prepare a place for you..." John 14:2.

C. It must also be understood in contrast with the our place in this life of which the apostle Paul says: "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, unto good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Eph. 2:10

Application:

Many professing Christians choose their own will and way in life. At the end of their life they expect the Lord to put His stamp of approval on what they've chosen to do, and to hand them their reward. Learn this from Judas: Your own will and way lead only to your own place. You have to be broken and humbled and become a servant to come to the place the Lord has prepared for you. The way leads past Calvary. What is your way?