

## Disappointed In Jesus.

Mark 14:10,11.

Sunday morning, December 14, 2008.

### I. Judas: A privileged person in a privileged position.

- A. He was a privileged person for the Lord had chosen him to be part of the twelve disciples who were to be witnesses of His words and works.
- B. He was in a privileged position for:
  - 1. He heard the strength of the Master's voice when he stilled the storm; when He cast out the demons; when He cursed the barren fig tree, and when He commanded Lazarus to come forth from the grave.
  - 2. He heard the tenderness in the Master's voice when He pleaded for sinners to come to Him: "Come to Me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Matt. 11:28-30.
  - 3. He had witnessed the Lord's tender compassion as He healed the multitudes of afflicted ones and even raised the dead.
  - 4. He had witnessed the Lord's patience and wisdom as He taught the multitudes and interacted with His enemies who sought to entrap Him.
  - 5. He had experienced the gift of the heavenly powers himself as he too was sent out, two by two along with the other disciples, throughout the land of Israel, preaching the gospel; healing diseases, and casting out demons. Luke 10:1-20.
  - 6. Judas too, along with the other disciples, had been given great and precious promises; even to the point of sitting on twelve thrones with the Lord, judging the 12 tribes of Israel; a hundredfold reward, and eternal life. Matt. 19:28 and Mark 10:29,30.

### II. What caused Judas to fall away?

- A. The rebuke which the Lord administered to His disciples on the Saturday evening prior to His death may have had something to do with it. Judas had been the main maligner of Mary, John 12:4,5, as she poured out the costly ointment on the Lord's head and feet, and so the Lord's rebuke was mainly directed at him.
- B. The prospect of the Lord's demise may have had something to do with it as well. On the road toward Jerusalem, all the way from Caesarea Philippi in northern Galilee, the Lord had over and over again spoken of His impending death in Jerusalem. Judas no doubt sensed that the Lord's suffering and death might endanger him and his fellow disciples as well. Who knew if they too would be arrested and killed. Perhaps they would get off with being flogged, or with being excommunicated from the synagogue. No matter how and what, things did not look very good for the little band of disciples. At this point Judas chose to cut his losses and to get out from following Jesus while he could. Money being of great importance to Judas, he went to the Sanhedrin to enquire how much they would pay him to deliver Jesus to them. They offered him 30 pieces of silver (12 ounces); the price of a common slave. Ex. 21:32.

- C. The common denominator in the various factors that may have contributed to Judas' demise was his temporal value system. Judas loved himself supremely.
1. As long as Jesus served Judas' ideals, Judas would stay with Jesus.
  2. As long as it was advantageous to follow Jesus, Judas would follow.
  3. Judas loved money, and he was a thief; here it follows that he sold the Lord for money once it became evident that following Jesus might entail risk and disadvantage. This was Judas' final court of appeal; personal advantage.
  4. Judas had not internalized the words of the Lord that he who would save his life would lose it. Matt. 10:39 And he who would lose it for the sake of the gospel would save it unto eternal life.
  5. Judas had not appropriated the Lord's words: "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes and his own life also, he can not be My disciple." Luke 14:26.
  6. It was Judas' unwillingness to be renewed from the inside.  
The unwillingness to sacrifice what he was by nature, (a covetous thief; a lover of money and a lover of self), to the cross of Christ; to be crucified with Him. It was his impenitence that destroyed him.

### III. Why do you follow Jesus?

- A. Do you follow Him like Judas; for personal advantage? As long as He serves your agenda?
- B. We should not dismiss such a thought too quickly. That is why we are asked to examine ourselves at the Lord's table. Much the way the disciples did at the institution of the Lord's supper in reaction to the Lord's words that one of them would betray Him. "Lord is it I...?"
- C. In becoming a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ you signed up to die with Him. Die with Him to this world and to your pride, and to serving your own appetites. All this so that you may also rise with Him in newness of life.
- D. Many want to be Christians, but few are serious about making the cross of Christ their own, and to look to Christ to be raised as new creatures in Him.
- E. The Lord taught us that the Kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet which is let down into the sea. It gathers up all kinds of fish, good and bad alike. Then it is dragged up on the shore and men sort things out, setting the good apart and throwing the bad away. So it will be at the end of the age. Matt. 13:47-50.
- F. The Apostle Paul wrote to the church of the Philippians, which was a good church, "Many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ; whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetites, and whose glory is their shame -- who set their mind on earthly things." Phil. 3:18,19.
- G. The Apostle John writes in his little second letter, "I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we have received commandment from the Father." 2 John 4.
- H. What separates an Esau and a Judas from the Lord's children is a willingness to die with the Lord to themselves and to this world, and a sense of their need for the Lord's help and grace in this matter.