

Matthew 26:14-16 The Decision to Betray Jesus

Introduction: In our text last Sunday we saw two people make decisions to do something special for Jesus. In this text we see Judas make a decision to betray Him. This text raises several questions:

- I. Why would Jesus allow Judas in His church and why would He choose him to be an apostle?
 - A. He surely knew beforehand what Judas would do.
 - B. He wanted to go the cross and He deliberately choose a man who He knew would betray Him to the enemy.
 - C. It was necessary for Him to die if sinners were to be saved.

- II. Why would Judas want to be in the church and why would he accept a position of apostleship?
 - A. It certainly was not because of any repentance nor because of any faith in Jesus as Savior.
 - B. He had been baptized under the ministry of John the Baptist.
 1. John had preached that the Messiah King was at hand.
 2. It had become the popular thing to do to get baptized by John the Baptist.
(And so Judas was baptized by John.)
 3. Then John identified Jesus as the Messiah King.
 - C. It must have come as a shock when the new King asked him to join His group of followers and become one of His officers.
 1. It was an offer that an ambitious man could not afford to turn down.
 2. It gave him a chance to get into the new government at an early stage and to occupy one of the highest offices in the new government.
 - D. Then when Jesus began to do so many miracles and became so popular he was sure he had made the right decision.

- III. Why would Judas change his mind about Jesus?
 - A. The first stages of disillusionment probably came at Capernaum when he saw the Jewish leadership grow in their antagonism toward Jesus. (He would think that one must have the support of these leaders in order to become the new king.)
 - B. He must have become very disheartened when Jesus announced to the disciples before they left Capernaum that He would be killed at Jerusalem.
 - C. His hopes were, no doubt, lifted at the triumphal entry.
 - D. But as he listened to Jesus debate the Jewish leaders in the temple his hopes faded again.
 - E. Then when Jesus announced that two days later He would be crucified all hope was gone.
 1. He had followed Jesus in vain.
 2. He had wasted three years.

- IV. The time of decision, (The feast at Simon's house; six days before Passover.)
 - A. When he saw the alabaster box (bottle), he thought he would be able to salvage something out of following Jesus.
 1. This was an expensive perfume and could be sold for lots of money.
 2. If sold he would hold the money.
 3. Some think he intended to embezzle from the funds.
 4. Others think he intended to take it all and disappear.
 5. Can you imagine his shock when he saw Mary break the bottle and pour it all out?
 - B. Judas was angered by it and he said so in no uncertain terms.
 - C. He was angered again by Jesus when Jesus said, "Let her alone."
 1. Jesus was talking to all the disciples, but Judas took it personal.
 2. He could not have been more insulted if Jesus had addressed him personally and rebuked

him before all.

3. This was the straw that broke the camel's back.

V. Contact with the enemy.

- A. Judas knew that the Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus.
- B. He knew that they would have already attempted to take Jesus but they feared the multitude with whom Jesus was still popular.
- C. He went to them and offered to report to them when and where they could arrest Jesus away from the crowds, verses 14 and 15a.
- D. He was probably disappointed in their offer of only thirty pieces of silver, verse 15b. (The price of a slave – not the fortune he had hoped for.)
- E. But he took it anyway, verse 16.

VI. Lessons for us today.

- A. Not all the Judases are dead.
 - 1. Probably there is nobody in the world who wears that name.
 - 2. But the Christian, or professed Christian, who forsakes Jesus for the pleasures of sin sells out Jesus to the world.
 - 3. The Christian who denies that the Bible is God's word sells out Jesus to the world.
 - 4. The one who says, "It does not make any difference what you believe." sells out Jesus to the world.
 - 5. The so-called Christian who proclaims a works-for-salvation gospel message sells out Jesus to the world.
 - 6. Any Christian that forsakes the Christian life for any reason sells out Jesus to the world.
- B. But one does not have to be a Judas to go to hell; all he has to be is an unbeliever, John 3:18.

Conclusion:

- 1. Come and trust Jesus to save your soul. (Make your decision to trust.)
- 2. Give yourself in service to the Lord. (Make your decision to serve.)

Preached at Pleasant Hill 12-14-86 A.M.