

Wednesday with the Word

Wheat Street Baptist Church

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Lesson #3: January 23, 2019
The Judas Factor: Judas is REAL!
Acts 1:12-26

Acts:1:12-22

12-13 The Mount of Olives was about half a mile from Jerusalem. The apostles who had gone there were Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon, known as the Eager One, and Judas the son of James.

After the apostles returned to the city, they went upstairs to the room where they had been staying.

14 The apostles often met together and prayed with a single purpose in mind. The women and Mary the mother of Jesus would meet with them, and so would his brothers. **15** One day there were about one hundred twenty of the Lord's followers meeting together, and Peter stood up to speak to them. **16-17** He said: My friends, long ago by the power of the Holy Spirit, David said something about Judas, and what he said has now happened. Judas was one of us and had worked with us, but he brought the mob to arrest Jesus. **18** Then Judas bought some land with the money he was given for doing that evil thing. He fell headfirst into the field. His body burst open, and all his insides came out. **19** When the people of Jerusalem found out about this, they called the place Akeldama, which in the local language means "Field of Blood."

20 In the book of Psalms it says,
"Leave his house empty,
and don't let anyone
live there."

It also says,
"Let someone else
have his job."

21-22 So we need someone else to help us tell others that Jesus has been raised from death. He must also be one of the men who was with us from the very beginning. He must have been with us from the time the Lord Jesus was baptized by John until the day he was taken to heaven.

The Judas Factor: Judas is REAL!

Judas had to do what Judas had to do. Judas is somehow a part of the process. Judas will self destruct but before Judas self destructs Judas is going to put you through some mess. Judas actually hands you over to your destiny because when you are called and empowered by the Lord and you are doing the Lord's work you will not quit. You realize that for God to raise me I have go through something that I need to be raised from. We have to endure the Judases in our lives. They are going to come.

As this text ends, they are clear, Judas is gone and when Judas walks away and self destructs God will send a man or woman of God in the place of Judas to support you. Judas has to get out of the way for what's next. Judas' has to do their assignment that pushes you through what you got to go through and then help is on the way.

One of the keys, if not the key, to dealing with Judas is your spiritual insight and spiritual eyesight to see Judas. If you see Judas you can't be hurt by Judas. You expect Judas to do what Judas is going to do. You wait on Judas, you brace yourself as a way to protect yourself and stay on plan. Staying on plan means you don't let what Judas does stop you from doing what God has called you to be and do.

How do you identify Judas?

Judas: A Profile

You have to be able to identify Judas. You have to able to identify Judas so that when Judas does what Judas is destined to do it will not get you off mission. If we don't identify Judas we are bound to get surprised or slapped when were weren't expecting it. On the other hand when you know who Judas is you expect the inevitable. Yes, it is inevitable. We all have a Judas. When you are doing the work of God the enemy will use Judas to mess you up, mix you up and get off track if you are spiritually mature and aware.

Judas a Profile:

Luke 22:1-3

The Festival of Thin Bread, also called Passover, was near. **2** The chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses were looking for a way to get rid of Jesus, because they were afraid of what the people might do. **3** Then Satan entered the heart of Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve apostles.

The chief priests wanted to get Jesus but they knew the people loved Jesus. They knew if they came at Jesus the wrong way the people would revolt. Jesus's popularity at this point in his ministry was at an all time high. How were they going to do it? They needed some help.

1. Judas is always responding to a plot of the devil to be used by the devil. Judas doesn't act alone but is a part of a larger demonic plot, put together by people who are not inline with the will of God. They are being used by the devil (the devil is real). They are intent on stoping what God is doing. They need help and Judas is the one who becomes the "one" to allow the devil to enter his or her heart and

they become the key variable in the plot with this band of demonically possessed people. Chief Priest don't look demonic in their robes and attending the synagogue but what people look like has nothing to say about what is in their heart (and many times this is where we get in trouble we get caught up in what we see with the physical eye instead being in tune with our spiritual eyes).

The text says: **3** Then Satan entered the heart of Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve apostles.

Satan enters the heart of Judas. Judas is still one of the twelve while sitting at the table plotting to kill Jesus. He looks like an apostle, walks like an apostle, dresses like an apostle, makes all the meetings but Satan has entered his HEART! Don't let what it looks fool you to not believe what it is!

2. Judas Initiates Action and Offers Him or Herself Up for Service.

Luke 22:4-6

4 Judas went to talk with the chief priests and the officers of the temple police about how he could help them arrest Jesus. **5** They were very pleased and offered to pay Judas some money. **6** He agreed and started looking for a good chance to betray Jesus when the crowds were not around.

Judas offers him or herself to be used. They go and talk with folk whose hearts are also filled with the devil. They sit together, they talk together, they plot together. In this text we know what the chief priests and temple police want to do. We know their agenda, and you have Judas talking with them. Evil delights in evil. When you see someone who you thought supported what God was doing in your life in conversation and close relationship with those you know are not in support of what God is doing in your life "take NOTICE!" Don't ignore what you see because this is revealing to you what is going on spiritually.

Judas looks for an opportunity to betray you. They watch, they wait and they talk. Judas is a plotter. They are planning, they are watching you not with a sense of support or adoration but rather with contempt, contemplation and opportunity to catch you in something and to turn on you. Watch how they watch you. Watch while they wait. They pretend like all is normal but if you are attune to the Holy Spirit you will see how they look at you. The death stare is not a look of love and support.

3. Judas appears confused and always says, "I would never betray you. You know I am with you all the way." They never fess up because they are trying to mess up. Judas has a vested interest in trying to make you think it is not them. Listen to what they say and what those who do support what God is doing in your life say. You have to take Judas at his or her deceptive word!

Luke 22:20-23

20 After the meal he took another cup of wine in his hands. Then he said, “This is my blood. It is poured out for you, and with it God makes his new agreement. **21** The one who will betray me is here at the table with me! **22** The Son of Man will die in the way that has been decided for him, but it will be terrible for the one who betrays him!”
23 Then the apostles started arguing about who would ever do such a thing.

Matthew 26:20-25

20-21 When Jesus was eating with his twelve disciples that evening, he said, “One of you will surely hand me over to my enemies.”

22 The disciples were very sad, and each one said to Jesus, “Lord, you can’t mean me!”

23 He answered, “One of you men who has eaten with me from this dish will betray me. **24** The Son of Man will die, as the Scriptures say. But it’s going to be terrible for the one who betrays me! That man would be better off if he had never been born.”

25 Judas said, ***“Teacher, you surely don’t mean me!”***

“That’s what you say!” Jesus replied. But later, Judas did betray him.

4. Judas is the leader who appears to be a follower. Judas close enough to you to kiss you.

Luke 22: 47

47 While Jesus was still speaking, a crowd came up. It was led by Judas, one of the twelve apostles. He went over to Jesus and greeted him with a kiss.

Judas was one of the twelve. He had just dined with Jesus. He said, “surely not me!” The one who we think was led by the chief priest and temple police was actually the leader of the party. The one who claims to be for God and all that God is doing is duplicitous and is not following the crowd but rather they are leading the crowd. Judas spends a lot of time looking like a follower, one of the good guys with the bad boys. They are always pointing to others when it is them.

Judas kisses you! Judas has too close enough to you to kiss you. Judas is someone who is close enough to betray you. Outsiders are not Judas’s, outsiders can’t kiss you, they don’t know you and they can’t betray you. Judas knew everything. Judas knew where Jesus was and he could lead them to Jesus. Judas must have access to you. They must be in the leadership. Judas sits at the top of the heap. They don’t lead from the back. They work their way in and in the end they work on you to turn you over to the devil, the enemy.

5. Judas will betray you with a kiss! An act of kindness that appears to be good is the covering Judas uses to attack you.

Luke 22:47-

47 While Jesus was still speaking, a crowd came up. It was led by Judas, one of the twelve apostles. He went over to Jesus and greeted him with a kiss.

48 Jesus asked Judas, “Are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

(We will deal with this on Sunday!)

49 When Jesus' disciples saw what was about to happen, they asked, "Lord, should we attack them with a sword?" **50** One of the disciples even struck at the high priest's servant with his sword and cut off the servant's right ear.

51 "Enough of that!" Jesus said. Then he touched the servant's ear and healed it.

52 Jesus spoke to the chief priests, the temple police, and the leaders who had come to arrest him. He said, "Why do you come out with swords and clubs and treat me like a criminal? **53** I was with you every day in the temple, and you didn't arrest me. But this is your time, and darkness is in control."

Jesus always confront Judas in a way that sheds light on who Judas is without coming out of character. Jesus knew who Judas was. Judas is a part of the plan of God as dastardly as it sounds but he / she is. They are setting you up what looks like death but the thing is, if you know who Judas is and respond as God leads you through what you have to go through you will come out while Judas will self-destruct.

Judas's Replacement: What Next Will Get You Through

Acts 1:21-26

21-22 So we need someone else to help us tell others that Jesus has been raised from death. He must also be one of the men who was with us from the very beginning. He must have been with us from the time the Lord Jesus was baptized by John until the day he was taken to heaven.

23 Two men were suggested: One of them was Joseph Barsabbas, known as Justus, and the other was Matthias. **24** Then they all prayed, "Lord, you know what everyone is like! Show us the one you have chosen **25** to be an apostle and to serve in place of Judas, who got what he deserved." **26** They drew names, and Matthias was chosen to join the group of the eleven apostles.

It is interesting what they look for in the replacement for Judas.

1. Someone who has been there from the beginning. They are not afraid to replace Judas but they are looking for someone who is mature in the Lord. Someone they know has been discipled. Not everyone wants to be discipled...everyone is not able to be discipled (this breaks my heart but it is true)!
2. Two men were suggested, both equally mature in the Lord, but they don't pick. They don't vote. ***They pray!*** As you look for those you are going to let into your life, pray. As we look for leaders for our church. Pray before you vote. Let your vote be informed by the Holy Spirit. I pray over you everyday. I pray for God to show me the hearts of those in this ministry. I pray for God to show me those who are after the heart and will of God. I pray to God for Godly leaders to show themselves and serve with me and hold me accountable as I try to hold them accountable.
3. Satan entered the heart of Judas. Judas doesn't look mean and evil. The person causing the most trouble, the person who is the most vocal, the person leading

the opposition to what God is doing in your life in a public way is not Judas, they are the chief priests and temple police (they are still evil but they are not Judas). Judas is an insider. Judas has been there for you and with you. So they prayed about who to choose and the let the Holy Spirit lead them. Pray before you give people access to you. Pray, and keep on praying.

Note: Casting lots was their way of voting and allowing God to work through this process.

Lots could be sticks with markings, stones with symbols, etc., which were thrown into a small area and then the result was interpreted. "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD," (Prov. 16:33). There are many instances of casting lots in the Bible. By casting the lots and drawing a conclusion from the way they fell, or by shaking the lots in a closed container and picking one out at random. The result was regarded as the will of God , by the Jews as much as the other peoples of antiquity.