

## Why Did Judas Betray Jesus?

Many things are said about Judas and why he betrayed the Lord. "He was a zealot", "He wanted Jesus to be king". Theories are abounding, but let us take a look at the Scriptures and see.

Let us see if we could have been like Judas, had we been in the same circumstances.

### What Was Judas Like?

He was the "finance man". Finance persons need to have a head on their shoulders. They pinch pennies and don't like money wasters. Judas must have been a person like that. Let's look at some of the biggest "money wasters" that led up to Judas betraying Jesus and see how we would compare to Judas.



### First Money Waster

At the home of **Simon the Pharisee**, "he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, brought **an alabaster box of ointment**, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment." (Luke 7:36-38)

No one murmurs. Judas might have been a bit hot under the collar, but does not say anything about the expensive perfume that was wasted and poured over Jesus' feet. Judas might have thought, "What a waste, why didn't she just use water? We could have sold that stuff for some good cash. Jesus should have never allowed that waste."

### Second Money Waster

It is now **six days before the Passover** at **Lazarus, Mary and Martha's**.

"Then Jesus six days before the Passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was. Then took Mary a pound of **ointment of spikenard, very costly**, and anointed the feet of Jesus,



and wiped his feet with her hair. Then said one of his disciples, **Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him**, 'Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?'" (John 12:1-6)

Here, this is the second time that this happened and Judas had to speak up as 300 pence is 300 days' wages. That is almost a year's salary and it was gone in just five minutes!

Incredible, this is beyond Judas.

"This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein."

"Who says I am a thief? Look, we are quite tight and this was a waste. Well, if they can waste that much on someone's feet, then I deserve a few pennies too, so what's the big deal?"

### Third Money Waster

It is now **two days before the Passover** at the home of **Simon the leper**. "After two days was the feast of the Passover, and being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a

woman having an alabaster box of **ointment of spikenard very precious**, and she broke the box, and poured it on his head. But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, 'To what purpose is this waste? For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor.' And they murmured against her." (Mark 14:1,3; Matthew 26:8; Mark 14:5,10)



Here we see that Judas' grumbling had infected the disciples and they had caught on to Judas' "concern" about the "waste" of money. **This was the third time and now it is enough for poor Judas**. "And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them." (Matthew 26:14)

### Judas Loses it Completely

He immediately goes to the chief priests and the elders, the "good religious" people.

"If I turn Jesus over them, then maybe they can help Jesus to get back on track, because obviously Jesus is a big waster. Okay, he heals people, raised some people from the dead and he preaches a good sermon, but what representation of God is he anyway? His first miracle was about 600 litres of wine for a bunch of party animals that had drunk everything already. Then him talking about eating his flesh and drinking his blood? The Law of Moses absolutely forbids this and I am definitely not a sickening vampire.

I have got to get out from underneath his spell. I will turn him over to the priests, they studied psychology and theology. They know what God ought to be like. They know their stuff. They know the Law and they can help him to see the error of his ways, because I am at wits end. I have to draw the line somewhere."

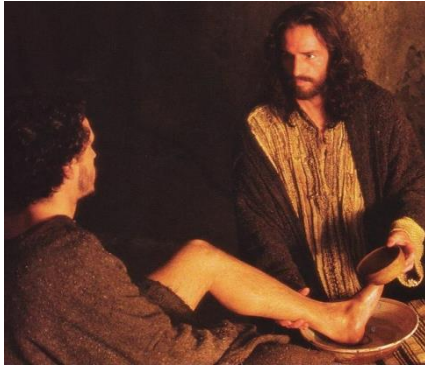
"Then Judas went unto the chief priests, and said unto them, 'What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you?'

And they covenanted with him for **thirty pieces of silver.**" (Matthew 26:15)

The grumbling had put a crack in his armour. "Anyway thirty pieces of silver is not bad money, and God knows we need it. I think it will all work out really well." He had opened the flood gates for the Devil's accusations and he was pulled along in the flood of lies and could not get out.

### At the Lord's Supper

Even Jesus washing Judas' feet could not touch him anymore. If he only would have asked, "Jesus, can you please help me, I am consumed with negativity about this perfume business. It is too much for my money thinking mind. I even went to the priests, they want a private meeting with you and they gave me thirty pieces of silver. I am in bad shape, Lord and I desperately need your help. I am so screwed up with these money matters. Can someone else please handle the money?" - **But he did not ask.**



### Judas Realizes his Mistake

"Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he (Jesus) was condemned," - Hey, this is not what I had in mind, they were going to talk to him, they used me. "repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us?" - That is your problem. "And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple" - I don't want this blood money - and departed" - Judas had lost his anchor -



"and went and **hanged himself.**" (Matthew 27:1-5)

### Thirty Pieces of Silver for a Dead Servant

"If the ox shall push a manservant or a maidservant that they die, he shall give unto their master thirty shekels of silver." (Exodus 21:32)

Judas had sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.

According to the Law of Moses, this is what we should pay for a servant that was killed by our ox.



For Judas it all started with grumbling, so if we grumble and complain about things and the way God is treating us, then this God that we allegedly "worship" has the same value in our eyes as a dead servant. In other words we think God is pretty useless and more or less like a dead servant. What is he worth to us?

### Simon Peter Denied Jesus

"Then he began to **curse and to swear**, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, you shall deny me thrice. And he went out, and **wept bitterly.**"

(Matthew 26:74,75)



Simon Peter was the leader among the disciples, yet he denied Jesus three times that same night, but he went out and wept bitterly. He also could not believe what he had done. Although he was also at wits end, **he held on and came through with flying colours.**

### If It Wasn't For the Grace of God

Honestly, would we have done much better than Judas?

With this in mind we can only say, "Dear Jesus, would you please watch over my mind and thoughts and keep me under your protection, because without it I could mess up like



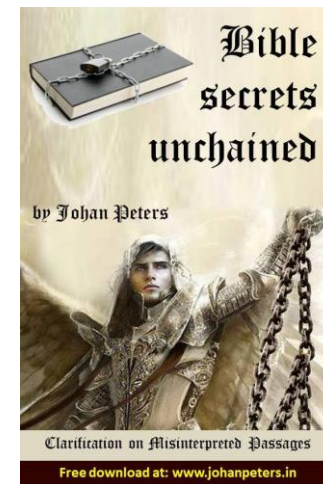
anything. I could betray you like Judas or deny you like Peter. Please, keep me close to you, in the palm of your protective hand. (John 10:28)

Let us stick to Jesus' admonishing words, "**Judge not, that you be not judged.**" - As we will be judged by the same standards that we have set for others. (Matthew 7:1)

"Here but for the grace of God, go I."

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