

Judas Iscariot

Matt. 26:11-5:14-16

The time of this Scripture in the life of Christ was the fourth day of Passion week - Wednesday. He had had three busy days.

1. Sunday the triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
2. Experience with the barren fig tree as He went from Bethany back to Jerusalem.
3. Last day of teaching in the Temple where He sees Judas cast in her all where He leaves for Mt. of Olives to discourse on "Last Things"

Now this fourth day is the day before He and His disciples are to eat the Paschal Supper. It is a day of rest for Jesus but a busy day for His enemies. Off in some secluded spot in the Mt. He no longer taught but gave exhortation, advice, and consolation.

Judas Iscariot, our subject for to-day begins to become conspicuous in our minds. We see him in consultation with the Chief priests, the Scribes, and Elders in the palace of the High Priest who was called Caiaphas.

The darkness had been gathering for some time in his heart. The prediction of Christ to the disciples that He was to be betrayed extinguished the glimmering light in Judas' heart. In its place glamed up the lurid light of hell. "By the open door out of which he had thrust the dying Christ, Satan entered into Judas" Luke 22:3. (And he then went to the palace).

When Judas was first attracted to Jesus He was not likely the dark character that he now shows up to be. As some one has said "The germ of the evil, in all likely hood, was -

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folded themselves gradually." After all do we not find this same law of development true in our own lives? we are not criminals or reprobates to be got with but come to it gradually.

He was the only disciple from Judea and seemed to have administrative ability. He seemed to desire this and was elected treasurer of the band of disciples.

He entered this company, no doubt, with an idea that Jesus was the Jewish messiah, who would set up a temporal kingdom.

At this time every body flocked to Jesus and even Judas was amongst those given power to make the devils subject unto them.

Disappointment came step by step:

1. John Baptist was beheaded and Christ did not avenge it but rather withdrew.
2. Christ's refusal to be made king
3. Constant reference of Christ to shame, disaster, and death

These blighted the hopes he had when first he entered the company. Down he goes till we see him stand unmasked in the presence of many who really loved Jesus. Here Judas is seen as heartless, hypocritical, and full of hatred.

Then on this Wednesday his light flickers and goes out. But not forever maybe for he shows a *conscience later on. For the night of betrayal his conscience exacts a terrible account.

That night amid the gloom a picture was made upon his mind that he could

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not get away from. It was the picture that came to his view as the torchlight glare shined upon the pallid face of the Divine sufferer.

He was utterly desolate - no one in heaven or earth to appeal to. The high priest would not take back the money but said, "See thou to that" and sent him reeling back into darkness. But this could not still conscience.

As the 30 pieces of silver fell on the marble floor they screamed out no doubt in his ears, "I have betrayed innocent blood!"

He plunges deeper and deeper into the night to its furthest bounds where rises and falls the dark flood of death. The wild howl of the storm has lashed the waters into fury. They toss & break in wild billows at his feet. In one rift in the dark cloud above he sees the figure of the dead Christ. As his mind flits back to the scene of Christ walking on the water, and who bestows them peace, what peace to him now! in earth or heaven? It was the same Christ but thorn crown with nail prints in his hands and feet. And his feet had done to Christ. Only one moment did it seem to be there and was then sucked up by the dark waters beneath.

Again the cloud curtain is drawn, only more closely the darkness is thicker and wilder than before. Out into that darkness with one wild plunge - there where the figure of the dead Christ had lain on the waters! and the dark waters close around and as in eternal silence!

* As we see this dreadful scene of his sinking into the abyss does not shudder over thought that at times we have stood at mouth of this crater when we were once doubtful or when the storm of passion or self-will almost broke the fanned roof and almost extinguished the little light left?

See the lurid morning that broke on
the other shore where the gloved East twin up,
did he meet those searching, lowering eyes of Jesus,
whose gaze he knew so well - when he came
to answer for the deeds done in the flesh?

How is it with you to-day my friend?
Have you trust and the Christ? If so
it is the same Christ Jesus said I said
of his life. And too the same devil that
entered his heart has entered yours
and unless eliminated will carry you
on the down grade to an eternal hell.

Thou Oh Christ art all I want
More than all in thee I find
Raise the fallen cheer the faint
Heal the sick and lead the blind
Just and holy is Thy name
I am an unrighteousness
False and full of sin I am
Thou art full of truth and grace.

