

Twelve Unlikely Men

Mark 3:13-19

Review

- **I. The Moment (13a)**
 - "And He went up on the mountain."
- **II. The Master (13b)**
 - "...and [He] summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him."
- **III. The Mission (14-15)**
 - "And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach, 15 and to have authority to cast out the demons."
- **IV. The Men (16-19)**

Judas Iscariot

- Mark 3:19 – and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him.
 - Cf. Matt. 10:4 - and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Him.
 - Cf. Luke 6:16 – and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.
 - Two points...
 - 1) His background – Iscariot
 - 2) His sin – he betrayed Him (lit., "delivered Him up"); he was a traitor.

His Birth & Background

- Judas comes from Judah, which means "praised" or "celebrated."
- His father was Simon Iscariot (Jn. 6:71; 13:26).
- Iscariot
 - Hebrew, Ish-Kerioth
 - Means "man of Kerioth"
 - Kerioth is a little town in the tribe of Judah, mentioned in Joshua (15:15).



His Spiritual Interest

- Acts 1:21-22
 - With Christ from the time of His baptism by John.
- Possible Judas had been baptized by John and had expressed repentance.
- Acknowledged that he believed that Jesus was Israel's Messiah, His King.
- Luke 6:12-13 – It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. 13 And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles.
- John 6:64 - Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him.

Why did Jesus choose Judas?

- Because it was the divine plan.
 - John 17:12 - "While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.
 - Acts 1:15-20
 - Ps. 41:9 – Even my close friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.
 - Ps. 55:12-14 – For it is not an enemy who reproaches me, Then I could bear it; Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me, Then I could hide myself from him. 13 But it is you, a man my equal, My companion and my familiar friend: 14 We who had sweet fellowship together Walked in the house of God in the throng.
 - Cf. John 13:18 – "I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'HE WHO EATS MY BREAD HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.'"
- But Judas' choices were merely an expression of his own sinful heart.
 - Matt. 26:24 - "The Son of Man is to go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born."

His Ministry

- Matt. 10:1, 4; 11:1
 - Cf. Mark 6:7 – He sent them out in pairs.
 - Simon the Zealot was his ministry partner.
 - Mark 6:30 – The apostles gathered together with Jesus; and they reported to Him all that they had done and taught.

His Ministry

- Primary responsibility was treasurer.
 - Luke 8:1-3 - He began going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God. The twelve were with Him, 2 and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, 3 and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means.
 - John 13:29 – some were supposing, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus was saying to him, "Buy the things we have need of for the feast"; or else, that he should give something to the poor.
- Resources were given for two purposes...
 - 1) Providing for the expenses of the disciples
 - 2) Giving to the poor and those in need

His Tragic Plot

- John 6:70-71
- Saturday of Passion Week
 - John 12:4, 6
- Wednesday of Passion Week
 - The leaders of the nation met to plot Jesus' arrest and death.
 - Matt. 26:1-5; Mark 14:1-2; Luke 22:1-2
 - Judas arranges to betray Jesus.
 - Matt. 26:14-16; Mark 14:10-11; Luke 22:3-6

Judas' Motive?

- Satan had put it in his heart (John 13:2, 27).
- Specific temptations?
 - 1) Fear of the authorities (John 11:57)
 - 2) Injured pride – cf. Jesus' public rebuke at the supper in Bethany (John 12:1-8).
 - 3) Disappointed expectations – the triumphal entry had made it clear to him that Jesus wasn't the kind of king he wanted.
 - 4) Frustrated ambitions – wanted to be one of the leaders of a political kingdom.
 - 5) Greed and covetousness.
 - John 12:6 - he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.
 - Matt. 26:15 - "What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?" And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him.

Thirty Silver Coins

- Zech. 11:12-13 - I said to them, "If it is good in your sight, give me my wages; but if not, never mind!" So they weighed out thirty shekels of silver as my wages. 13 Then the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter, that magnificent price at which I was valued by them." So I took the thirty shekels of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the LORD.
- Ex. 21:32 – thirty pieces of silver was the compensation owed if your ox accidentally gored your neighbor's slave.

The Last Supper & Betrayal in the Garden

- Thursday evening, in the Upper Room
 - John 13:2-4, 10-11, 18-19, 21-22, 23-27
 - John 18:2 - Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place, for Jesus had often met there with His disciples.
- The Garden of Gethsemane
 - Matt. 26:45-50; Mark 14:41-46; Luke 22:47-48; John 18:1-9

His Tragic Suicide

- Friday morning, just after daybreak
 - Matt. 27:1-5



His Tragic Suicide

- Friday morning, just after daybreak
 - Matt. 27:1-5
 - Acts 1:18-19 – Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. 19 And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.

The Moral of Judas' Life...

- **1)** It's possible to be connected to Jesus and His followers and not be a genuine follower.
- **2)** There is an inherent danger in hypocrisy.
- **3)** A person can look to every Christian around like the real thing and not be.

The Moral of Judas' Life...

- **4)** It's possible to be exposed constantly to the truth and have around you great examples of devotion to God and to choose the opposite.
- **5)** The life of Judas shows the growth of sin in the heart.
- **6)** Judas reminds us that we can feel deep regret for sinful choices without real repentance (2 Cor. 7:10)
- **7)** Judas is wonderful example of the patience and long-suffering of God.



The Moral of Judas' Life...

- **8)** The tragic life of Judas reminds us that regardless of how wicked a person may be, or how evil his plans against God and His purposes, he cannot affect the eternal plan of God.