When You Love Yourself More Than You Love Jesus

Luke 22;1-6
November 3, 2024

The Big Idea: We can be named among the close friends of Jesus and still be struggling with a secret sin, be deeply influence by Satan, and love self more than we love Jesus. All of those things led to Judas' great betrayal of Jesus. Judas' story didn't have to end the way it did. How will your story end?

Luke 22:1-6 (ESV)

21 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is
called the Passover. 2 And the *chief priests and the scribes* were
seeking how to put him to death, for *they feared the people*.

3 Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the
number of the twelve. 4 He went away and conferred with the
chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. 5 And
they were glad, and agreed to give him money. 6 So he
consented and sought *an opportunity to betray him* to them in
the absence of a crowd.

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT JUDAS

- He was chosen by Jesus to be a disciple and an Apostle. As one of "the Twelve", he was hand-picked by God and an answer to prayer. [Luke 6:12-13]
- He was from Judea.
- He was a preacher of the Gospel and participated in miracles. [Luke 9:1-6]
- He was always named last among the Disciples.
- He handled the money ("the purse") for Jesus and the others.
- He had a secret sin (secret to the others but not to Jesus). Judas was a thief. [John 12:4-6]
- His betrayal was a fulfillment of a prophecy in Psalm 41:69.
- He dies by suicide. [Matthew 27:5]

MISGUIDED MOTIVES THAT ENDANGER OUR SOULS

1. The love of money. [1 Timothy 6:10]
2. The jealousy and envy of our heart. [Proverbs 14:30]
3. The longing for position and power. [Philippians 2:3]
4. The pride of believing we need to "help" God. [Acts 17:24-25]

TAKE-HOME TRUTHS – WHAT THE TRAGEDY OF JUDAS TEACHES US

- I can spend most of my time with Jesus people and still be far from the Lord. I need a daily heart-check. [Psalm 139:23-24]
- There is no salvation for those who have no faith at the end. [1 John 2:19]
- Two of Jesus' disciples were said to have allowed Satan's influence in their lives – Peter and Judas. They show us 2 different ways of responding to sin when we become convicted – one dies in shame and one repents and is restored.
- Submission and obedience are the quickest routes to being in the will of God. Pray the prayer of Jesus: "Not my will but yours be done."

24 Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present
you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, 25 to the
only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty,
dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.
Jude 24–25 (ESV)