

Judas Iscariot: What Can We Learn From Judas?

Text: Verses that Include “Judas” NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends: From the perspective of many, *Judas Iscariot seemed to be a faithful follower of Jesus.*

However, in the end, his *old nature* teamed up with *Satan* to betray our Savior. Since [Acts 1:25](#) is the *last reference* in the Bible to *Judas Iscariot*:

- Let’s **understand** what the Bible says about Judas.
- Let’s **be open** to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

1. **The Name “Judas” In the Bible:** In the [NAS-95](#) version, it appears 34 times.

- 26 of the 34 References: They refer to Judas, *who betrayed Jesus*, that is, ***Judas Iscariot***. “*Iscariot*” was his family name, which identified “*his place of origin from Kerioth, a town in southern Judea [about 16 miles south of Jerusalem]*” (BW, Friberg).
- Two of the 12 Apostles were Named Judas: ***Judas Iscariot*** and ***Judas the son of James*** ([Luke 6:16](#); [John 14:22](#); [Acts 1:13](#)).
- Jesus’ Brothers: [Matthew](#) and [Mark](#) identify them as: ♦James, ♦Joseph, ♦Simon, and ♦Judas ([Mt. 13:55](#); [Mk. 6:3](#)). **James** wrote James, while **Judas** wrote Jude.

- d. Other People in the Bible Named Judas: Judas of Galilee ([Acts 5:37](#)) and Judas of Damascus ([Acts 9:11](#)).
 - e. Origin and Meaning of “Judas”: **Judah** in Hebrew is **Judas** in Greek. Judas means *praised*; the meaning is very positive *but not many are named Judas today*.
2. **Judas Iscariot – Apostle and Betrayer**: [Matthew](#) (10:4), [Mark](#) (3:19), [Luke](#) (6:16), and [John](#) (6:71) all describe Judas Iscariot as the one who betrayed Jesus.
 - a. To Betray: It means to *hand over*.
 - b. Regarding Judas: It was “**an unjustified act of handing someone over to judicial authorities**” (BW, Friberg).
 3. **Judas’ Arrangement to Betray Jesus**: Judas conceived the betrayal in his mind, then, step by step, he kept going 😊.
 - a. [John](#): He told us that Judas, *by very early on Palm Sunday*, was already planning to betray Jesus ([12:1-6](#)).
 - b. [Matthew](#) (26:14), [Mark](#) (14:10), and [Luke](#) (22:4): They told us that Judas went to the chief priests and officers to work out the arrangement to betray Jesus.
 - c. [Luke](#): He told us that “**Satan entered into Judas**” late on Tuesday of Holy Week ([22:1-3](#)).
 - d. What Can We Learn? Even when we have started down the wrong path, ***we can still repent!***
 4. **Judas In the Upper Room**:
 - a. Jesus Said, Regarding His Betrayer: “**It would have been good for that man if he had not been born**” ([Matt. 26:24](#)). **Non-existence** would have been better than 😞a Christless death and 😞eternal punishment.

- b. On the Betrayer's Identity: Judas said, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" [all others called Him, "Lord".] Jesus said to him, "You have said it yourself" (Mt. 26:25). In other words, yes, it is you! Jesus told Judas He knew, *without making Judas and his plan known to the others.*
- c. Jesus Sent Judas Away: He said: "What you do, do quickly." But the others didn't understand (John 13:27-29), *so they didn't suspect Judas was the betrayer.*

5. **Judas In the Garden of Gethsemane:**

- a. Judas Knew Where to Find Jesus: **John 18:2** ...Judas... knew the place, for Jesus had often met there with His disciples.
- b. Judas Came with Many Others: **Matthew 26:47** ...Judas... came up accompanied by a large crowd with swords and clubs...
- c. Judas Identified Jesus: **Matthew 26:49** ...Judas went to Jesus and said, "Hail, Rabbi!" and kissed Him (Mark 14:43-45; Luke 22:47).
- d. Jesus Responded: **Luke 22:48** "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

6. **Judas Felt Remorse**: **Matthew 27:3** ...when Judas... saw that [Jesus] had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver...

- a. Felt Remorse: μεταμέλομαι can be translated: "*feel remorse, become concerned about afterward, regret*" (Frieberg, BW). We have all felt the same: Regretting what we **said** or **did** *and wanting to make amends*. Judas felt the same, *so he returned the money* – but that could not save him 😞.

- b. Two Kinds of Sorrow: 2 Corinthians 7:10 “For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”
- i. The sorrow of the world:
 - 1. It **does** include despair, but it **does not** include *godly sorrow* and *trust in Jesus*.
 - 2. Judas *had so thoroughly hardened his own heart* that he was blind to God’s gift of forgiveness through Jesus☹.
 - ii. The sorrow that is according to the will of God:
 - 1. It is worked by God through the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. It reveals a person’s helplessness.
 - 3. It shows a person his need for God.
 - iii. A Comparison: **Judas** and **Peter** rejected Jesus, but, *by God’s grace*, Peter repented.
 - iv. The Final Word: Sin is never good *but the deciding factor for each person is **repentance***: To all who were not in Christ, Peter said: **Acts 3:19** “**Repent... and return**, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...”

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, TYSM for making us Your holy children! Keep us in ongoing repentance (godly sorrow & trust in Jesus) and bring many unrepentant ones into Your kingdom!