

Matthew 26:14-16: Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests¹⁵ & said, "What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver.¹⁶ And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

Intro: Last week, we saw a woman who had the mindset of Christ: she demonstrated extravagant (profuse; lavish; exceeding limits) sacrifice for Christ & extravagant love & devotion to Christ, & helped prepare Him for His death. She did a good, beautiful thing for Jesus, & she will be remembered forever for it! Be like her! [b/c of Jesus!]

MP: You can't waste anything on Jesus, so love Him extravagantly because He loved You extravagantly first.

Today: We see the exact opposite of the extravagant devotion of this woman. She poured everything out for Jesus. Judas took everything from Jesus & got what he could for betraying Jesus. In Judas's life, we see extravagant apostasy (rejecting God), evil, & betrayal when he sells Jesus over to be murdered for thirty pieces of silver.

DEC 2023 – Pastor of 10th Pres; This week (Pastor Steven Lawson): Trinity Bible Church Dallas: The elders at Trinity Bible Church of Dallas regretfully announce that effective immediately, Steven J. Lawson has been removed indefinitely from all ministry activities at Trinity Bible Church of Dallas; OnePassion: The board of OnePassion Ministries mournfully announces that just recently Steven J. Lawson confessed to the board that he has had an inappropriate relationship with a woman, a sin that has disqualified him from ministry. In response Steve has resigned from all his duties at OnePassion Ministries. Steve has confessed and regrets the damage he has caused to his family, the church, the reputation of OnePassion Ministries and most of all Jesus Christ.

June News Article About Pastor Tony Evans: A Texas megachurch pastor has suddenly announced he is stepping down from leading the institution he helped build after 48 years of preaching, saying only that he has fallen short of the "absolute supreme standard of truth" he aimed to live "due to sin." "The foundation of our ministry has always been our commitment to the Word of God as the absolute supreme standard of truth to which we are to conform our lives," Evans wrote in announcing his leaving. "When we fall short of that standard due to sin, we are required to repent and restore our relationship with God. A number of years ago, I fell short of that standard. I am, therefore, required to apply the same Biblical standard of repentance and restoration to myself that I have applied to others. While I have committed no crime, I did not use righteous judgment in my actions." [They are not Judas!]

- **1 Cor 10:12:** Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

- **Mark Dever:** 1) It's a terrible thing; 2) More leaders will fall; 3) Most won't; 4) Pray for your pastor

Remember Judas, & fight with all God's might never to be like him because of all Jesus has done for you.

1. Who Was Judas Iscariot?

a. Judas was one of the twelve: One closest to Jesus! **Matt 10:2-4:** The names of the twelve apostles are these . . . Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. (Ish: man; Cariot: Town of Karioth – 23 miles south of Jerusalem)

b. Jesus chose Judas to be one of His disciples: John 6:70-71: Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil."⁷¹ He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the Twelve, was going to betray him.

c. God foretold what Judas would do: Psalm 41:9: Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

- **John 13:18:** I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, "He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me."

d. Everything Judas did was according to God's sovereign plan: Acts 2:23: this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

- **Acts 4:27-28:** for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you

anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

- **John MacArthur:** Judas is a clear reminder that the purposes of God stand sure. No matter what anyone may do, they will never thwart the plan of Almighty God. God always accomplishes what He determines to do.

- **Mark Dever:** Friends, we need to acknowledge God's sovereignty, & admire the sovereign Who acts in such mysterious power & with such costly, self-sacrificial mercy for us! Brothers & sisters, be amazed at God's goodness to us. How like God to use even the greatest act of human treachery against Him for our salvation . . . could there have been a sin more personally directed against God than Judas's betrayal? No. [And so, your life!]

e. Judas was responsible for what he did in betraying Jesus: Matthew 26:24: The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born. [**Mark Dever:** This could be said of all of us if it weren't for Jesus Christ!]

f. Judas was discipled by the best discipler ever – Jesus: Judas went with Jesus everywhere he went. Judas heard all of Jesus' sermons, & even received Jesus' private instructions for His disciples. Judas went out with the other disciples & did ministry in Jesus' name!

- **John MacArthur:** It is possible to be near Jesus and to associate with Him closely and still be hardened in sin.

- **Matthew 7:21-23:** Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?" ²³ And then will I declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness."

g. Judas was a lover of money & a thief: John 12:4-6: But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii & given to the poor?" ⁶ He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.

- **This is a warning for us: Matthew 6:24:** No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one & love the other, or he will be devoted to the one & despise the other. You cannot serve God & money.

- **1 Timothy 6:6-11:** Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, & we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food & clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless & harmful desires that plunge people into ruin & destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith & pierced themselves with many pangs. ¹¹ But as for you, O man of God, flee these things.

h. Judas submitted to the devil's temptations: John 13:2: During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him . . .

- **James 4:7-8:** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, & he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, & he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, & purify your hearts, you double-minded.

i. Judas rejected Jesus & rejected God: Judas sold Jesus over for thirty pieces of silver: **Zechariah 11:12-13:** Then I said to them, "If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them." And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver. ¹³ Then the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter" - the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver & threw them into the house of the LORD, to the potter.

- **Commentator:** This payoff is an insult that utterly rejects God as shepherd. Zechariah throws the money to the potter in the temple, the place of idolatrous worship that earlier prophets condemn (Ezek 8-11). Matthew sees this same scenario of rejecting God played out again when Judas betrays Jesus, the Good Shepherd, for 30 pieces of silver.

John 17:12: While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

Remember Judas, & fight with all God's might never to be like him because of all Jesus has done for you.

2. Judas Iscariot's Extravagant Apostasy, Evil, & Betrayal

Matthew 26:14-16: Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵ & said, "What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶ And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

Judas is a picture of everyone who has ever been born: **Romans 1:30:** haters of God . . .

- **Romans 8:7-8:** For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

- **Ephesians 2:3:** were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **GOSPEL!**

- **Ephesians 2:4-5:** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ- by grace you have been saved

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3. Perseverance Of The Saints

What hope do we have not to end up like Judas? God will cause us to persevere to the end & be saved! Jesus can't lose a Christian! Perseverance of the saints is the last letter in the doctrines of grace: **TULIP**

1) Total Depravity: Men are so bad, depraved, sinful, & dead spiritually that they do not have the desire or ability even to seek God, trust God, or come to God without God first causing them to be born again & giving them spiritual life and a new heart.

- **Romans 3:10-12:** as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God.

¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

2) Unconditional Election: God, from before the foundation of the world, chose those whom He would save (His elect), not based on anything they have done or would do in the future, and not based on anything He would foresee them doing in the future, and not based on their free will to choose Him, but based only on His love and sovereign will to choose them first.

- **Ephesians 1:4-5:** he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will

3) Limited Atonement: Jesus died for those whom the Father chose to save, and in His death, He purchased everything necessary to justify, sanctify, and glorify all of God's elect, including their faith, repentance, sanctification, and perseverance in the faith unto glory. Jesus did not die to purchase a potential salvation but an actual and effective salvation. No one for whom Christ died will end up in hell because that would be a grave injustice in which the penalty of hell is inflicted by God twice – once on Christ on the cross and a second time on those who reject Christ. Jesus actually suffered all God's wrath toward the elect so that there is no more wrath burning toward them forever.

- **John 10:11, 26:** I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep . . . but you do not believe because you are not my sheep.

4) Irresistible Grace: The Holy Spirit of God will finally overcome all resistance in the human heart of those God chose & those for whom Christ died, & He will cause them to be born again, grant them new hearts, & apply the work of Christ to them such that they will most certainly repent & believe in the Lord Jesus Christ & be saved.

- **John 6:37:** All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

- **John 6:44:** No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.

5) Perseverance of Saints: We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; & they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

a. We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end:

- **John 8:31:** Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples"
- **Hebrews 3:6:** but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.
- **Hebrews 3:14:** For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

b. That their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors:

- **1 John 2:19:** They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.
- **Matthew 24:13:** But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

c. That a special Providence watches over their welfare:

- **Jeremiah 32:38-41:** And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. ³⁹ I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. ⁴⁰ I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. ⁴¹ I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.
- **Ezekiel 36:26-27:** And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.
- **John 10:28-29:** I give them eternal life, & they will never perish, & no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, & no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.
- **Romans 8:31-39:** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died – more than that, who was raised – who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

d. And they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation:

- **Philippians 1:6:** And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
- **Philippians 2:12-13:** Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
- **Jude 1:24-25:** 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.
- **Hebrews 13:5:** Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
- **1 John 4:4:** Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

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4. How Do You Persevere To The End And Be Saved?

a. Keep trusting in Jesus Christ as your Lord & Savior by grace along through faith alone:

- **Romans 4:4-5:** Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵ And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness

- **Romans 5:20:** where sin increased, grace abounded all the more

b. Keep hating sin, fighting sin, & repenting of sin: Romans 6:1-2: What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

- **Colossians 1:29:** For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

- **1 Corinthians 9:24-27:** Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body & keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

Are you fighting sin in your life this way? Are there ways you have become comfortable with sin?

Kevin DeYoung (Signs you are drifting toward danger with sin in your life): 1) A weakening vigilance in fighting against sin: You're tired of fighting; You're tempted to give up; You used to hate sin, but now you are finding it more & more appealing & you tolerate it more. You make small compromises.

2) A less frequent conviction about sin: You don't feel as convicted about sin as you used to. When is the last time you went before the Lord & confessed a specific sin. When is the last time you went up to a person & confessed a specific sin? When is the last time you heard a sermon or read your Bible & felt convicted about sin?

3) You don't fear God the way you once did: Your relationship with God is cold – you've left your first love.

4) A growing cynicism about the power of God: Nothing ever changes; God can't do anything; God doesn't do that anymore; If you hear people rejoice in God's mercy – you think that would never happen to me. You don't pray.

5) Increasing doubt in the promises of God: You no longer believe them. You don't trust God anymore.

c. Keep coming to church: Yes we have shut-ins & those who are unable to make it here, but the normal way to live the Christian life is by meeting together every Sunday: **Hebrews 10:24-25:** let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. [You need the means of grace; You need each other!]

d. Keep studying God's Word: Psalm 119:11: I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you

e. Keep praying: Luke 18:1: he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray & not lose heart.

f. Keep the main thing, the main thing: Danny Byram: The main thing in life is keeping the main thing the main thing. [Jesus is the main thing! The cross is the main thing! The Gospel is the main thing! Mary last week!]

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Christ Jesus Is Worth More Than All The World's Gold
Yet He'd Be Betrayed So Heartless And Cold
Thirty Pieces Of Silver In Wickedness Sold
By Judas His Own Whom Satan Would Hold
The God-Man's Arrested, They'd Mock And Blindfold
All Things Came To Pass Just As He Foretold
He Died Where No Wrath Did His Father Withhold

Then Rose From The Grave, Our King We Behold
By Faith Alone We Are Just And Consoled
By His Holy Spirit We're Pure And Controlled
Never To Leave Him, Our Rock And Stronghold
Who'll Never Let Go, We Are His From Of Old
So Come Praise His Name Who's Forever Extolled
And Live For His Glory So Joyfully Bold!