

Are you Judas? Beware of Judas Mentality
A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic
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During the Last Supper, Jesus was preparing for His departure to return eventually to His Father. He washed the disciples' feet to signify His fellowship with them, to give them a model to follow, and finally, to cleanse them. He knew that not all of them were clean, and that one of them would betray him (Jn 13).

For three years, Judas who was one of Jesus' disciples still fell under Satan's influence because he betrayed Jesus (Jn 13: 21-30). As renewed Christians, we are not exempted from Satan's temptations; there are many weeds that can choke the word of God (Mt 13:19-23). We need to be vigilant and let the Word of God be the water that cleanses us from evil influences; let us be wary of the Judas mentality.

1. The devil sowed evil thoughts on Judas.

- Like Judas, we can also find ourselves backsliding, even after we have committed ourselves to the Lord (1Cor 10:12).
- When we neglect the Bible, we let wicked influences affect our lives. When our prayer time is eroded, our love and fire for Jesus is slowly extinguished. Let us watch and pray (Mt 26:40). Our fellowship with the Lord must be maintained by continual cleansing.

2. Judas allowed love of the world to take the place of love for God (2Cor 4).

- Satan entices us with worldly things. He is subtle and has many methods to tempt us to the desires of the flesh.
- But, everything in this world comes not from the Father; these will all pass away, but the word of God lasts forever (1 Jn 2: 15).

3. His Love for the Lord was replaced by love for material things.

- Love of money is the root of all kinds of evil (1 Tim 6:10). Love of money has caused people to wander from the Lord.
- Command the rich people to do good. Let us be rich in good deeds, be generous, and we will lay treasures for ourselves in heaven (1 Tim 6:17-19).

4. It was the amount of money in the Treasury that was his provider.

- Judas was trusting his purse; he wanted more.
- There was not enough money to feed the 5000, but it was the miracle of God that provided for them.
- Let us trust in God, not on our bank accounts..

5. Money became his obsession.

- He became obsessed in filling up his purse rather spending his time with Jesus.
- When Mary poured the most expensive perfume on Jesus' feet, Judas was concerned that the perfume could have earned them a lot of money. It was supposedly for the poor, but he wanted the money for himself (Jn 12: 4-8).

6. Judas' focus was on money and the value of the things of the world.

Spending money properly/wisely can be a great blessing. However, our greed for money makes us selfish and corrupt and results in curse.

7. Judas thought pouring the expensive perfume on Jesus was a tremendous waste.

- He was interested in the monetary value of the perfume; whereas, the woman wanted to show her lavish love while Jesus was still alive.
- In the same way, let our joy and our love for God permeate in our personality. Our heart of worship and reverence for Him is forever recorded in heaven. We will be rewarded as faithful servants in our eternal home(Mt25:21).

Judas may have been the first to turn his back on Jesus. But, today, many have developed the Judas mentality, and have exchanged commitment to God for love of worldly and material things. Let our minds be set on the things above, and to follow God at any cost.

Reflection:

- How much do you love Jesus? How far will you go to prove your love for God?
- Will you separate from Him when He does not give you what you want?
- What are the limits of your service to the Lord?

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