

## JUDAS BECAME A TRAITOR

Text: Luke 6:16

INTRO: "Became," ASV, NASB, RSV, NIV. "Turned," NEB.

If one were to consider the events of the N.T. in strictly chronological order, one of the greatest surprises in the history of the short personal ministry of Jesus would be the fact that one who had been with the sinless Lord for about 3 years could turn completely away from Him & betray Him to those who would kill Him.

A. Judas' betrayal was almost surely a great surprise to those Judas had helped in time of need. JN 12:4-6; 13:29.

B. The betrayal was a surprise to the other apostles, MK 14:19, "Lord, is it I?" READ JOHN 13:26b-29

C. Tho we rarely, if ever, consider the thot, the betrayal was probably a surprise to Judas himself, when he fully realized the nature of what he had done.

READ MATTHEW 27:1-5.

### I. WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT JUDAS?

A. Not born a traitor, he became a traitor. NOTE: Judas was not a devil from the beginning as some teach. No one was a devil from the beginning, not even Satan himself.

B. Judas was a disciple of Christ. How did he become a disciple? Same way anyone does--by his own choice. By responding to Jesus' invitations.

C. An apostle by the choice of Christ.  
READ MATTHEW 10:1-8, 17-20, 40.

### II. WHY DID JESUS CHOOSE JUDAS?

A. Not because of ignorance.  
Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that did not believe, & who would betray Him. (JN 6:64).

1. Beginning of creation?
2. Beginning of earthly ministry?
3. Beginning of betrayal events?

B. Yet, not because He wanted a rascal. If Judas was chosen for the precise purpose of betraying Jesus he did his work with perfection & is as great as John the Baptist or the apostle Paul.

C. Perhaps Jesus, as well as seeing in Judas certain evil tendencies which might develop, also saw other finer qualities that might overcome these evil tendencies under the teachings & influence of Christ. At least, this was the case with the other apostles.

1. John, LK 9:54; MK 10:35
2. Thomas, JN 20
3. Peter (denial)

D. It seems that Jesus chose these 12 men, not so much for what they were, but because of what they were capable of becoming.

E. Of course, in choosing them, he must choose at least one who was capable of becoming a traitor, that the Scriptures might be fulfilled, Psalm 41:9.

### III. WHY DID JUDAS BECOME A TRAITOR?

A. We may not know all the factors, but it is almost certain that Jesus was not behaving as Judas had expected in proclaiming Himself King.

B. Also, Judas had become an embezzler. Perhaps at first he just "borrowed" from the fund with intentions of paying it back later. At any rate, the fear of being detected must have made him quite uncomfortable in the presence of the Lord.

C. Whatever else might have been involved, the rebuke Jesus gave Judas in the house of Simon the leper was the "straw that broke the camel's back."

READ JOHN 12:1-8; MARK 14:3-11

### IV. HOW DID JUDAS FEEL ABOUT HIS DEED AFTER THE

FACT?

A. He was remorseful, acknowledged his sin & attempted to make restitution, MATT 27:1-4.

B. Failing in his attempt to make restitution, he apparently could not live with the knowledge of what he had done, went out & hanged himself, vs. 5.

1. Was his repentance real?
2. If so, was Judas saved? Acts 1:25; JN 17:12
3. Why not? Answer: Judas had lost his faith. Heb 11:6. If Judas, who had walked with Jesus for 3 years had had the faith that was produced in the heart of the dying robber who had hung beside Jesus for only 3 hours, his fate might have been different.

C. Like Jesus' other disciples, Judas had lost his confidence in Jesus. "We were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel..." The others lived to have their faith restored but Judas died without faith. Heb 11:6; John 8:21, 24.

Springhill, LA, March 9, 1975  
La Porte, TX, August 17, 1975  
La Porte, TX, September 14, 1980  
Exton, PA, October 7, 1984  
Exton, PA, June 10, 1990  
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, January 19, 1997  
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, June 15, 1997