

## PETER AND JUDAS

Text: Matthew 26:21-25, 31-33

INTRO: In this lesson we will compare & contrast 2 of Jesus' original apostles. Both had many of the same opportunities, both made similar mistakes, yet one is remembered with respect & honor, the other with despite.

### I PRIVILEGES THEY BOTH ENJOYED.

A. of course they were both the objects of Jesus' love.

John 13:1, Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

B. They both traveled with Jesus as He went from place to place teaching the multitudes & doing good deeds.

Matt 9:35, Then Jesus went about all the cities & villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

C. They were eye witnesses of virtually all Jesus' miracles.

- D. They had the distinct privilege, not only of hearing the gospel, but of hearing it from the lips of the Lord Himself.
- E. They were both commissioned by Jesus & empowered to work miracles themselves.

Matt 10:1-8, And when He had called His 12 disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness & all kinds of disease. Now the names of the 12 apostles are these: 1st, Simon, who is called Peter, & Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, & John his brother; Philip & Bartholomew; Thomas & Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, & Lebbeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Canaanite, & Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. These 12 Jesus sent out & commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

II. BOTH WERE FOREWARNED OF THEIR IMPENDING FALL. (Text).

III. BOTH STUMBLED & FALTERED IN THE FACE OF TEMPTATION JUST AS JESUS HAD FORETOLD.

READ MATT. 26:47-50; 69-75

IV. BOTH WERE REMORSEFUL WHEN THEY REALIZED THE FULL IMPACT OF WHAT THEY HAD DONE.

READ MATT. 26:75; 27:1-5

V. THO THEY HAD MUCH IN COMMON THERE WERE IMPORTANT WAYS IN WHICH THEY DIFFERED.

A. We expect to see Peter in heaven. Judas became known as the "son of perdition"—a child of hell.

John 17:12, While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

Acts 1:25, Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

B. Peter went on to be a faithful servant & apostle. He was promised the keys to the kingdom of heaven & he opened the door to both Jews (Acts 2) & Gentiles (Acts 10). He even wrote 2 books of the N.T.

C. Judas went down in history as one of the most despised men of all times.

Matt 26:24, The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born."

#### VI. THE MAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JUDAS & PETER:

- A. Not the nature or seriousness of their sin, or the depth of their fall.
- B. Not their sadness or sorrow or remorse for what they had done. Perhaps there was a difference there, but that is not the main difference.
- C. At a crucial moment in their lives they were different in a way that spelled the difference between heaven & hell.
  - 1. Judas gave up & turned away from God.
  - 2. Peter got up & turned back to God.

CONCLUSION: We, too, are sinners. We make our share of mistakes. We sometimes stumble & fall short. The difference for us between heaven & hell is whether, in the face of our sins, we give up like Judas & turn away from God, or like Peter, we get up & return to the fold.

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