

Being close to Christ is not the same as being in Christ.

The Character of Judas: Matt. 10:4, also John 12:4, he is always described as "the betrayer." Jn. 12:5-6, Judas didn't think Jesus was worthy of generous worship, Judas was a liar and a thief.

- The Gospel focus is not eliminating poverty but converting souls to be worshippers of God.
- Judas would leave the anointing of Jesus and agree to betray Him for 30 pieces of silver, Matt. 26:14-16.
- Jn. 13:1-2, the devil put into the heart of Judas to betray Jesus. Jesus' hour had come to give Himself as a sacrifice for sin and to crush Satan (Gen. 3:15, Jn. 12:23).
- Judas desired power and wealth and to be a part of Jesus' kingdom on earth.
- Jesus showed great love and humility by washing all of His disciple's feet, Jn. 13:5.
- Not all of Jesus' disciples were clean, speaking of Judas, Jn. 13:10-11.
 - Jn. 13:18, we see sovereignty of God in salvation and Judas' total culpability for his sins. Rom. 9:22-23, God is the Master and seeing the vessels preparing for God's wrath and those vessels of mercy to make known the riches of His glory.
- Sovereign election (Titus 3:5, Jn. 3:8) and human responsibility (Jn. 3:36) are truths that reveal how we think about ourselves.
- Total independent free will doesn't exist for man. If man has free will then God doesn't have free will in His sovereignty. He wouldn't be sovereign.

Three Principles We Can Learn from Judas:

- 1) **God Alone Possess Authority of Choice:** Jn. 13:18, believers are the only ones able to humble themselves before God. Jesus commanded them to wash the feet of one another, V14.
 - "I have chosen," is to be selected, claimed, elected, Jesus chose the 11 for salvation.
 - Judas delivered Jesus up as God had predetermined, Acts 2:23. Jesus always knew what Judas was going to do.
 - Jesus predicted that Judas would betray Him and told John so that they would remember what Jesus had said after He was raised from the dead, Jn. 13:19.
 - Jesus identifies His betrayer and then dismisses Him from the supper, Jn. 13:27-30.
 - Jesus knows all who have been chosen, Jn. 10:14.
- 2) **Human Beings are Fully Accountable to God:** Jn. 13:21, Jesus was troubled (agitated, perturbed) by Judas' betrayal. The disciples talked amongst themselves about who it was that would betray Him, V22. Luke 22:4-5, Judas agreed to betray Jesus for money. Jn. 13:24, Peter asked John to ask Jesus who it was that would betray Jesus. Jesus would tell John in V26.
 - Was Judas a helpless person? Judas acknowledged that he had sinned by shedding innocent blood, but did not repent, Matt. 27:4-5. Judas was called the son of perdition or the one who is condemned.
- 3) **God Justly Provides Consequences of Human Rebellion:** Judas had already planned to betray Jesus for money, Luke 22:1-6, Matt. 26:14-16.
 - Satan tried to humiliate Jesus through 6 trials, betrayal by Judas, many beatings, and curses by the people. Jesus was set on dying for those whom His Father had given Him.
 - Jn. 13:25-29, Jesus, John, and Judas knew who the betrayer was.
 - Jn. 13:30, it was night, and time for Jesus to fulfill His Father's will.

- There are just consequences for rejecting salvation. Jn. 12:47-50 says that the one who rejects God's offer of salvation will be judged by the words of Christ.
- All that our sovereign God does, He declares the end from the beginning, Isa. 46:10. He does for the good pleasure of His own will, Eph. 1:5, Phil. 2:13.

Further Discussion and Application

The sovereignty of God is difficult to understand because we see many things in life that are hard to explain with a holy, righteous, and all-knowing God. How are we assured that God is just in granting forgiveness to one and condemning another? Read John 3:16-21? Why is God just to condemn those who reject Jesus and the offer of eternal life in Him? See also Romans 1:18-20.

In 2 Corinthians 13:5, Paul commands us to "test ourselves to see if [we] are in the faith." What tests should we take to determine if we love the Lord? What fruit does our life bear? What attributes of Christ are we growing in? 2 Corinthians 12:20-21 gives signs of those who are unbelievers. Do we pass the tests in these verses?

John 17:17, how does a love for the word of God give us great confidence in our salvation? Love and obedience come together in service and worship of the Lord Jesus and Father. Read John 10:1-21. What is the evidence that you are one of the Lord's sheep? Do you believe that Jesus raised Himself from the dead?

There are only two camps, either you are a child of Satan or a child of God. What fruit do the children of Satan bear? Read Eph. 4:17-32. What is a darkened mind? What is walking in futility? What is a hard and callous heart? How do we break these tendencies in our life? What must we put on to practice righteousness?

What does it mean to be a slave of righteousness? What is a slave to sin? What do our new loyalties to Christ require us to do with our old man?