

# Was Judas Saved?

(By Pastor Kelly Sensenig)

I remember talking to a particular man during one of our church socials which followed the evening service. He was a visitor who obviously wanted to find out what theological position the church held concerning the security of the believer. After the service we welcomed this man to come downstairs and eat with us. While we were down in the church basement he began to promote the Arminian teaching which suggested that Judas Iscariot was saved and afterward lost his salvation following his betrayal of Christ. Of course, I had to confront this man and stand up for the truth. What is the truth about Judas Iscariot? Was Judas ever saved? The answer to this question can easily be found by examining the Scriptures dealing with the life of Judas. Allow me to state it very clearly. *Judas was never saved even though Jesus had chosen Judas to represent Him as one of His disciples.* Judas was never saved! If you do not believe me, will you believe Jesus?

## Jesus gave ten reasons why Judas was never saved:

1. Judas was never saved because of what Jesus said about discipleship.

John 6:64

“But there are some of you that **believe not**. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that **believed not**, and who should **betray** him.”

Jesus was talking to a crowd of people who appeared to know Him because they had been following Him around the countryside. He had addressed them earlier as following Christ for the wrong reasons. They wanted their next meal.

John 6:26 says:

“Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.”

These people were more interested in their own welfare than in Christ’s offer of salvation and glory. The social Gospel has never really changed. Liberalism has historically taught that the offer of salvation to people and their acceptance of salvation is based upon their encounter with food relief and medical attention. Of course, there is absolutely nothing wrong with any of these kind acts of humanity. The problem is that they do not represent the plan of salvation or offer spiritual salvation to people. Man needs much more than his stomach filled. Man needs his lost spirit to be regenerated through the life-giving message of the Gospel.

Jesus said in John 3:7:

“Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.”

Evidently these people’s stomachs were opened but their hearts were closed to the salvation, which the Messiah was offering while upon the earth. Jesus recognized these people for what they were and how they were thinking. That is why He said:

“But there are **some of you that believe not**. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that **believed not**, and who should **betray** him.”

Jesus knew the hearts of these lost people who never did receive Christ as the true Messiah and Savior of their lives. Jesus could not be fooled. That is why these disciples turned away from Jesus and did not continue to follow Him. *It is very important to recognize that these people never did believe on Christ to be their personal Messiah and Savior.* This is important to recognize because Jesus will use these very people as an example of another person, Judas Iscariot, who never was a believer and who would betray Him with a kiss. Judas will be categorized with this unbelieving group of people who were never saved and turned away from Christ.

John 6:65-66 says:

“And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that **no man can come unto me**, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.”

Jesus had taught that divine enablement was necessary for people to come to faith (v. 44). Within the sweep of God’s sovereign program, Jesus recognized that not every person following Him would be saved “except it were given unto him of my power.” *This is because the power of God (“it”) would not work in the lives of these disciples and bring salvation into their spirit.* Why is this? Why is God’s power seemingly ineffective? It’s because of man, not because of God’s power or ability to save people. There is certainly nothing wrong with the power of God to bring a person to salvation. None of us would be saved without God’s drawing power upon our lives. We would be left to roam our life until we drop off the broad road into the eternal judgment at the end of our days. The problem is not with the power of God. The problem is with the stubborn heart of mankind. Jesus said elsewhere that lost humanity would not come to saving faith in Christ, even when God’s convicting and convincing power was made available to them.

Jesus said in John 5:40:

“And ye will not (not cannot) come to me, that ye might have life.”

In other words, this group of particular disciples would not allow the drawing power of God to bring them to Christ. They would resist God’s move upon their soul.

Acts 7:51

“Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers *did*, so *do* ye.”

Will you Calvinists just believe that it is true? People can resist God’s drawing power. But I want to say that to resist the drawing power of God will lead you back into unbelief and darkness every time. So it was with Judas Iscariot. He was in the darkness of sin and unbelief because he resisted the power of God to bring him to salvation. These disciples were also close to the truth but would not accept it.

They were following Jesus Christ who was the truth (John 14:6). Likewise, Judas lived with Jesus for three years and yet Judas never did accept Jesus as his own Messiah or Savior.

*Jesus was explaining by this statement in John 6:65 why these disciples or followers of His were not saved and why they turned away from Him.* It's because they had resisted God's power! In a similar fashion, Jesus could not be fooled with the life of Judas. *He too would resist God's power and not become a believer.* In the very same context, Jesus explains how Judas was just like this crowd of people, who were more interested in their carnal delights instead of genuine salvation in the Messiah. He also alludes to the fact that Judas would turn away from the Lord even as these disciples did. In fact, Jesus clearly says that this one disciple (Judas) was never saved. He was not like the other genuine disciples who had confessed salvation and acceptance of the true Messiah.

John 6:67-71

“Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? He spake of Judas Iscariot *the son of Simon*: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.”

Jesus was saying that one disciple even among the twelve, which He had chosen, would go away and cease to follow Him. This of course was Judas Iscariot. *The implication is that Judas was like the previous crowd of people who had just turned away from Christ.* In response to Jesus' question about the disciples turning away from Him like the other people, Peter spoke up for the other twelve and exclaimed, “And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.” In essence, Peter was saying, “Lord, we are all believers in the Messiah. We all have faith in your offer of salvation. We are not like the previous crowd who has resisted your power of salvation (vs. 65). We are not like this crowd of people who You knew would not believe on you when they began to follow you (vs. 64). Lord, we are different. Lord, you know that we are different.”

Jesus heard what Peter said; however, Jesus could not allow Peter's statement to go unchecked. Jesus did not want the disciples to believe that what Peter said was really true. So what does Jesus do? In one sense, Jesus opens a can of worms and exposes Judas for the first time. He says that one of the disciples is actually like the previous unbelieving crowd who had just left them. There is one disciple who has resisted the saving power made available to him (vs. 65) and has an unbelieving heart (vs. 64).

We must understand the significance of what Jesus was doing. He was actually comparing one disciple (Judas) to the previous crowd of people who were unbelievers toward Him. Judas was just like the rest of the people who previously went away from Him because they had resisted the convicting power of God upon their lives to lead them to salvation. In essence, Jesus was saying that Judas was like the rest of the unsaved crowd who is now gone.

Jesus' reaction to Peter's claim that all the twelve disciples had believed in Christ as their Messiah and Savior was very important. For immediately after Peter had made this statement, Jesus responds negatively as if to announce that there is one who has not believed. *There is one among the twelve of you who has not looked to the Messiah as his Savior.* This particular person was Judas. In fact, instead of recognizing Judas as a believer like the rest of the disciples, Jesus says that one disciple (Judas) was Satan.

John 6:70

"Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?"

This statement by Jesus is a direct response to Peter's statement that all twelve disciples had believed on Christ as their Messiah and Savior (vs. 69). Jesus says that this is a false assumption. There is one of you who are Satan. The literal rendering of this text is, "One of you is Satan." The indefinite article ("a") is not present in the Greek text. It literally reads that Judas was Satan ("diabolos"). This allows the imagination of some people to run wild. They teach that Judas will actually be resurrected and become the Antichrist. Their claim is that Satan will evidently indwell the Antichrist in the future and empower

him just like he previously indwelt Judas (Rev. 13:4). Therefore, the two must be one and the same. The entire world will worship Satan through the Antichrist, who is nothing more than the reincarnation of Judas Iscariot. This theory is further supported by the fact that both the Antichrist and Judas are termed “the son of perdition” (John 17:12; 2 Thess. 2:3). Of course, this is all pure conjecture and another sad case of Scriptural gymnastics. The Bible mentions nothing about Judas being the Antichrist.

When Jesus said that one disciple (Judas) was Satan, *He obviously meant that Satan’s future involvement and working with Judas would be so extensive and momentous, that Judas could be considered to be like Satan himself.* As we will see in our next point, Satan would totally corrupt the heart of Judas and then enter Judas in order to work out the devil’s scheme or plan to have Jesus crucified. Satan became deceived and actually thought that he was winning the battle by getting Jesus crucified. But in reality, Satan was about to lose the battle!

Reviewing point one is important. Judas was never saved as Jesus clearly reveals by His words.

John 6:64

“But there are some of you that **believe not**. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were **that believed not**, and who should **betray** him.”

John 6:65

“And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that **no man can come unto me**, except it were given unto him of my Father.”

John 6:70

“Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and **one of you is a devil?**”

The sequence of the entire conversation is important. Judas was like the group of unsaved people who had rejected the Messiah and

God's drawing power to bring them to Christ. He was like the crowd who was ultimately following Christ for the wrong reasons. He would eventually fill his pocket with silver coins only to his demise. He would betray Jesus. Jesus then said that Judas was Satan! **If Judas was saved, then I suppose we must also say that Satan is saved!** How utterly ridiculous it is to try and force Arminian interpretations upon what Jesus really says about Judas. Judas was never saved. Judas was just like Satan. He was unsaved.

**Jesus gave ten reasons why Judas was never saved:**

1. Judas was never saved because of what Jesus said about discipleship.
2. Judas was never saved because of what Jesus said about His love and ownership for the disciples.

John 13:1

“Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, **having loved his own** which were in the world, **he loved them** unto the end.”

Jesus clearly recognizes that His true disciples were those people who were His own and because of this Jesus had a special love toward these men. These were those disciples that Christ knew were His own genuine followers. Christ knew that He owned these disciples as His very own property until the end of His days on earth. Was Judas included in the group of disciples that Jesus owned and possessed this special love and ownership for? The very next verse would lead us to believe that Judas was not in the mind of Jesus when He made this statement. For the very next verse says:

John 13:2

“And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, to betray him.”

A distinct separation is implied from the previous statement that Jesus had just made about love and ownership. This verse tells us that Judas was not in Christ's thinking when He said that He loved and owned His other disciples to the end of His journey on earth. Judas was not one of the genuine disciples. Judas was not a believer. Judas was like the unbelieving crowd who left Jesus for their own greed and profit. He was not part of the true flock. Although Jesus loved the soul of Judas, He did not have the special love for Judas and ownership over his life. This was because Judas was never saved and one of Christ's true followers. Christ could not verify that Judas was His very own like He could with the other disciples.

Now wait a minute! Doesn't the Bible teach that Judas was actually one of the twelve disciples?

John 6:71

"He spake of Judas Iscariot *the son* of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being **one of the twelve**."

Some have tried to create controversy over the fact that Judas was one **of** the twelve. They claim that this indicates Judas had to be saved. If Judas was **of** the disciples, then he must be saved like the rest of the disciples. This is certainly not true according to what we have just seen in this section of Scripture, which stresses how Judas was distinct from the special love and ownership that the other disciples had with Christ. It must also be understood that the expression "**one of the twelve**" as seen in John 6:71, does not indicate that Judas had salvation like the rest of the disciples. It merely stresses that Judas was identified with the disciples in number.

This wording actually means that Judas was ("ek") "from" or "among" the disciples. It does not indicate that he was necessarily like the other disciples in every way. Judas was not one of the genuine disciples. *Judas was never like the other disciples in relationship to possessing spiritual life and allowing his heart to be captured by Christ.* As we have already discovered, Judas did not possess spiritual life with the rest of the disciples. He never shared the spiritual conversion with the rest of the other disciples. Judas was

never a spiritual companion with the rest of the disciples. ***Judas was only numerically identified with the disciples. He was not spiritually tied with the other disciples.***

1 John 2:19 explains a similar situation:

“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that **they were not all of us.**”

Although Judas was one of the twelve by number and association, he was never one of the twelve in the matter of salvation and lasting commitment to Christ. John said that the legalistic teachers did not associate with the apostolic band of men because of their false character. Like this group of unbelieving legalistic people who separated from the apostles, so Judas went out from among the disciples into that dark night of long ago to manifest the truth that Judas was not **of** the rest of the disciples. *Judas was part of the twelve in association and terminology but not part of the twelve in true salvation.* Jesus did not own Judas as we have seen and possess that special love that He has for those who are really His.

As they waited for the new dispensation to arrive on Pentecost (Acts 1:16-17), Peter stood up and said:

“Men *and* brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. For he was numbered **with us**, and had **obtained part** of this ministry.”

Peter reminds the people that Judas was only *numbered* with the other disciples. Being a number and having an outward part is one thing. However, Judas did not have the spiritual life that the other disciples possessed. Judas only had the outward association with the disciples. He did not possess the real association that the disciples had with Christ by their faith in His message and person. Judas only had the outside trappings of the office but lacked the spiritual life of the other disciples.

3. Judas was never saved because of what Jesus said about his need for cleansing.

John 13:10-11

“Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash *his* feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, **but not all**. For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, **Ye are not all clean.**”

Jesus was teaching his disciples a spiritual lesson when he began washing their feet. The disciples who had accepted Christ as their Messiah and Savior were expected to cleanse their lives in order to have fellowship and communion with the Lord Jesus. This is why Jesus said to Peter that he needed to wash his feet.

John 13:6-9 records the conversation:

“Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also *my* hands and *my* head.”

After denying the Lord, Peter would have a greater understand about the spiritual lesson behind what Jesus was doing and his need for cleansing in the life of discipleship. Peter would understand that he would need forgiveness and cleansing in his Christian walk with the Lord. When Jesus said that Peter would have no part with Him unless He allowed Christ to wash his feet, then Peter remarked that he wants his whole body bathed. Peter misunderstood what Jesus was conveying by this action. Jesus was saying that you only need your feet washed. You do not need your whole body washed again.

“Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash *his* feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, **but not all**. For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, **Ye are not all clean.**”

The implication is that Peter did not need the washing of regeneration to occur in his life again in order to bring spiritual life to his spirit (Titus 3:5). Peter had already been saved and cleansed from all of his sins in the sight of God. He was a completely forgiven man. However, there would be the need for *daily cleansing* in the life of discipleship and Christian living that would be necessary for constant fellowship and communion with the Lord (1John 1:9). This is the lesson Jesus is teaching to Peter by washing his feet and not his entire body. *The cleansing of the feet spoke of forgiveness in the Christian life. The cleansing of the whole body speaks of the complete forgiveness for salvation and acceptance before God.*

We must then note what Jesus said concerning Judas Iscariot. Jesus recognizes that Peter had gone through the complete washing of regeneration. Peter was cleansed from all of his sins in God's sight and was a saved man. Jesus says that Peter was washed or clean everywhere ("every whit") which indicates that Peter had received of the glorious saving forgiveness that comes through Jesus Christ. However, this was not the case with Judas. Jesus reminds Peter that there was one among their midst who was not clean or cleansed from all of their sins ("**but not all**"). There was one who had not plunged into the fountain of God's eternal and complete forgiveness. "**Ye are not all clean.**" There was one who had not been saved through this washing or cleansing.

"There is a fountain filled with blood  
Drawn from Immanuel's vein,  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood  
Lose all their guilty stains."

Jesus was saying that Judas had never been to the fountain of the blood of Christ in order to receive God's eternal and complete forgiveness. **Judas had never been washed!** He had never been cleansed of all his sins and regenerated through the wonder working blood of Christ. This is very important to understand. *Judas was never saved because of what Jesus said about his need for cleansing.* No man can be saved unless he takes the plunge into the cleansing blood of Christ by placing his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ to save him. This is a very clear conclusion that leads us to believe that Judas was never saved. Judas was not like the rest of the

disciples in that he was never cleansed or washed all over by the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ (1 John 1:7). He had not received of that wonderful forgiveness which can only be found in Christ.

4. Judas was never saved because of what Jesus said about the Scriptures.

Many people wonder why Jesus would have chosen a traitor. Why would Jesus actually choose some person who would committ such a horrible act against Him? Jesus said that the reason why He chose Judas is so the Old Testament Scriptures might be fulfilled.

John 13:18-19

“I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the **scripture may be fulfilled**, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me. Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am *he*.”

Jesus clearly chose Judas as one of His disciples in order that the Old Testament prophecies dealing with the traitor Judas might be literally fulfilled.

Psalms 41:9 says:

“Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up *his* heel against me.”

This prophecy was written centuries before Judas would come on the world scene. But Jesus knew the Scriptures and He knew that there would be one who would betray Him in the end. Imagine this! Judas was that “familiar friend” that Jesus had fellowshiped with for so long. He had eaten bread or meals with Judas for three years and worked with Judas. He had lived with Judas and spoke with him for all this time. But Jesus knew that one day Judas would get around to “lifting up his heel against” Him. This is an expression, which means that Judas would betray Christ. Judas would turn on the very One that he had listened to and walked with for three years. When Jesus said that Judas would betray Him, He was not indicating that Judas would lose his spiritual life or salvation. *The Scripture that Jesus is*

*quoting from in the Old Testament indicates that Judas never possessed spiritual life.* It is another indicator that Judas was the black sheep from the very beginning. He was a sham servant. He was the counterfeit disciple. He was the Benedict Arnold of the whole bunch!

After explaining how Judas was never cleansed spiritually (vs. 10-11), Jesus then quotes this Old Testament Scripture to add another proof text that verifies the truth that Judas was not genuinely saved. You cannot argue with Scripture! Jesus actually uses the Scripture to prove or back up what He had just said about Judas previously. Judas was not cleansed and the Scripture was fulfilled when Christ chose this unclean traitor to sell the Son of Man. Scripture itself adds further proof to the unclean character of this man and represents Judas as an unsaved man.

John 17:12

“While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; **that the scripture might be fulfilled.**”

Once again we can see how Jesus uses the Scriptures to verify the fact about the unclean character and unsaved state of Judas Iscariot. Jesus concluded how Judas’ betrayal of Jesus **fulfilled** the words in Psalm 41:9 about David’s betrayal by his friend long ago. What David experienced when a familiar friend betrayed him was a prophetic anticipation of how Christ would be betrayed by Judas. The Scriptures add to the fact concerning the unsaved position that Judas had among the rest of the disciples.

The Lord Jesus quoted verse Psalm 41:9 in connection with Judas. However, it is significant that Jesus omitted the words “my own familiar friend in whom I trusted” when quoting this Old Testament verse. Why did Jesus fail to actually quote the entire verse? It’s because Jesus knew in advance that Judas would betray Him. The Lord Jesus had never trusted him, so He simply said, “He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me” (John 13:18). Jesus did not quote the entire verse for the simple reason that He never did trust Judas from the start. Jesus knew from the beginning that Judas

was not one of His own genuine disciples. *Jesus could not trust in Judas because Judas had not trusted in Him.*

5. Judas was never saved because of what Jesus said about those who receive Him.

John 13:20-21

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and **he that receiveth me** receiveth him that sent me. When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that **one of you shall betray me.**”

Jesus said something in this setting to convince us that Judas was never saved. Before Jesus even introduced the betrayal of Judas, He says something that makes it crystal clear that Judas was never saved. Jesus speaks about those that willingly receive and accept Him as their Messiah or Savior (“he that receiveth me”). But after making this statement he announces that one will betray Him and not receive Him. Jesus was making it very clear that Judas was that person who had not received the Messiah as his Savior. *The reason that Judas was never saved was because he had **never received** the Son of God!* He had **never opened** up his heart to Christ and believed on Christ as his long awaited Messiah and Savior. *Jesus begins with this statement (“he that receiveth me”) to prove how there was one in their midst who was a traitor which had not received Him.* Jesus could not say it in any clearer fashion. *Judas had never received Christ.* Therefore Christ never knew Judas as His own genuine disciple who was regenerated. Judas was much like that future generation of unsaved religious people who will speak about the many wonderful things, which they accomplished in the name of the Lord Jesus. When the Lord Jesus returns to this earth He will say some solemn words to this living band of religious people who were much like Judas.

Matthew 7:21-23

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in

heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you**: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

In all probability, Judas did every one of these things that are mentioned above. He cast out demons and did many miracles that stunned the crowds. None the less, Christ rejected Judas, like he will reject these people in the future, because He “**never**” knew them to be His own regenerated followers. Here is a sobering revelation from Scripture that tells us how a person can be an elder, deacon, pastor or church member for practically their whole life and still be lost. They may have written many books and been a great humanitarian and still go to Hell in the end. They may have fed millions of people and been involved in hurricane and flood relief programs but still die in their sins. Certain people may be viewed by the vast Christian public as a super saint. They may appear on magazine covers and seemingly have everything going their way. However, in the end of time they will discover that the only place that they are going is to an everlasting Hell and Christless eternity.

“Almost persuaded harvest is past;  
Almost persuaded, doom comes at last!  
Almost cannot avail, Almost is but to fail!  
Sad, sad that bitter wail, Almost, but lost!”

People can do many good and profitable things in their life but in the final end hear those soul wrenching words, “I never knew you.” What a frightening reality this is! What an eye opener it should be to the multitudes of people who are like Judas and possess what I call the “Judas syndrome.” They look pretty on the outside in so many ways but are unsaved on the inside. They have not believed on Christ with their heart. They have many wonderful works on the outside which people can look at and praise them for. The great tragedy is that these same people can be like Judas because they never received Christ as their Savior.

Jesus said:

“... he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.”

Judas had all the flowery appearance but no real life. This is because he had never received Christ as His Messiah or Savior. *Jesus begins with this statement to prove how there was one in their midst who was a traitor who had not received Him.* The implication is that Judas never received Christ. To arrive at any other conclusion is ludicrous.

John 1:12 says:

“But as many as **received him**, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name.”

6. Judas was never saved because Jesus did not serve His communion meal with Judas.

John 13:21-30

“When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that **one of you shall betray me**. Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake. Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake. He then lying on Jesus’ breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it? Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped *it*. And when he had dipped the sop (bread morsel), he gave *it* to **Judas Iscariot**, *the son of Simon*. And after the sop **Satan entered into him**. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly. Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him. For some *of them* thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy *those things* that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor. He then having received the sop went immediately out: **and it was night.**”

It was the custom for the host at a banquet to take a piece of bread, dip it in the fruit and wine sauce, and then present it to the guest of honor. The Lord actually makes Judas the guest of honor by His action of giving Judas the sop or morsel of bread. However, Judas did not receive a noble place of honor. He was being honored for his hypocrisy and for being a traitor. The Bible says that Satan actually entered into the body of Judas when Jesus gave him the sop. This is

one of the most terrible expressions in all of Scripture. Satan is going to use Judas as his tool to accomplish his purpose. Just think how the Son of God was there in that Upper Room waiting for Satan to enter Judas. The Lord of Glory watched as he allowed Satan to enter Judas at the moment he took the sop. The two greatest opponents of all the ages were there in that little room waiting for their own moment to change history in some way. Of course, this meeting was all according to plan.

Then the Bible says that Judas went out into the evening or night after Satan had entered him. *It was not only night in Palestine, it was also night in the heart of Judas! Judas was blinded by Satan and his evil working within his life.* By the way, it is inconceivable to think that Satan could enter into a saved man. Jesus prayed and expected the Father to protect His true followers from Satan's power (John 17:15). This would be realized in even a greater way with the dawning of the new dispensation.

1 John 4:4

“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

Here is another passing conclusion why Judas could have never been saved. Judas has now left the scene. He is wondering in the night of darkness and unbelief as all unbelievers do. After receiving the sop, he went immediately out: “**and it was night.**” And for Judas, it would never again be morning! So it is with the lost of this world. *In John's gospel he relates blindness to unbelievers who are already lost.* To say that Judas only became lost when he received the sop and when Satan entered him is erroneous. Judas was walking in darkness as all unbelievers do. He walked out into the night because there was darkness already lurking within his own soul. The unsaved are blinded in the darkness of sin and unbelief in need of the light of Jesus Christ to shine upon their hearts.

John 12:35-36

“Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he

that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light..."

This was the lot of Judas. He was in the darkness of unbelief. Darkness had settled into his own heart and he was walking in darkness because he was always an unbeliever. *Darkness of sin and unbelief is the trademark of the unregenerate or lost world.* They are lost in their sins and blinded in their unbelief (2 Cor. 4:3-4).

It is my personal belief, based upon the Scriptural accounts, that Judas did not receive the Lord's table which Christ served in light of His coming cross. The reason is rather obvious. It's because Judas was in the darkness of unbelief and had not received the Christ as his Savior. *Evidently the Lord's Supper followed the departure of Judas.* John 13:30 suggests that Judas "went immediately out" following the incident and verse 31 emphasizes, "Therefore, when he was gone out..." These statements are given to clarify to the readers that Jesus did not serve the Lord's Table to this man. Why is this? It's because unsaved and traitors have no place being at the Lord's table.

Matthew 26:25-26 says:

"Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said. And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body."

Imagine this! Judas actually had the nerve to ask the Lord if he would be the traitor. By studying John's record of this same scene, we can safely conclude that Judas left the room between verse 25 and 26. Judas would not partake of the Lord's Supper. No traitor or unsaved would be permitted at this precious and holy supper. Judas was already gone into the night to do his dastardly deed. The fact that the Bible emphasizes how Judas went out into the night before the institution of the Lord's Supper would indicate that he was unsaved and not a believer.

7. Judas was never saved because of what Jesus said about the vine and the branches.

John 15:1-6 says:

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit **he taketh away**: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is **cast forth as a branch**, and is withered; and men gather them, and **cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.**”

There are more interpretations for this passage of Scripture than I have fingers on my one hand. Yes, I have all my fingers! Many have lost the simplicity of what Jesus is saying in this section of Scripture. After years of study I have come to the conclusion that every genuine believer will bear *some fruit* along their Christian pathway in life. Unbelievers can do good things like Judas did while serving with the disciples. However, no unbeliever or unsaved person can bear fruit for Christ because they are not His own.

A branch that bears no fruit (“not fruit”) is obviously dead (vs. 3). The fruitless branch that is bearing no grapes was cut off and taken away to be joined on that great burning pile of dead branches that were removed from the vine. They would be gathered together by the working farmers to be burned.

The picture in Palestine is of the farmers of the vineyards who would every year cut off unproductive or unfruitful branches that were attached to their vines. They would throw them by the grape arbors, waiting for them to be burned. Afterward, his other workers or hired hands would come and gather the branches together and make a larger pile and burn them in a fire. It’s very easy to understand what illustration Jesus is using here. It was a common illustration taken from His own day and time. Christ and the disciples had witnessed this farming process many times.

This was a familiar sight by those who lived in Palestine. Fruitless or unproductive branches would be cut off of the vine and then gathered together in piles by the farmers. These branches would be put together on piles and then burned. The farmers called these branches “*sucker branches or sucker shoots*” because they would suck all the water and nutrition out of the vine but not produce any fruit in return. They would be nice looking and green and even produce leaves, but they would **never** bring forth the fruit that the farmer wanted them to produce.

You must understand that these fruitless sucker shoots needed to be removed so all of the water and nutrition could be directed to the fruit bearing vines. The idea that these branches represent believers whom at one time were fruitful and produced fruit is contrary to the farming illustration of Palestine. *These branches must refer to unbelievers or false disciples.* I think the Lord’s picture is very clear to see. A branch that bears no fruit (“not fruit”) is obviously dead (vs. 3). ***One fruitless branch had already been removed from their midst (John 13:30). It was Judas Iscariot!*** Judas was dead spiritually and dead in the sense that he bore no fruit in his life that was for God’s glory. This parable of the burned branches is an explanation of the life of Judas. The disciples did not understand why Judas had left the company. They thought he was going out on business as usual or giving some money to the poor.

John 13:29 says:

“For some *of them* thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy *those things* that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor.”

Apparently Jesus gave this parable to clarify what was wrong with the life of Judas. He informed the remaining disciples about the bitter end of those who are sucker branches that bear no fruit. Jesus reminds them that the disciple who left is cast on the pile of rubbish branches waiting to be burned in the fire!

The “burned” branches refer to professing Christians who, like Judas, are not genuinely saved and therefore are judged. Judas was with Jesus; he seemed like a productive “branch.” But Judas did not have

God's life in him; therefore he departed; and his destiny was like that of a dead branch for the fire. Judas would go the Hell!

*Remember:* The picture of the branch is that it is dead in the sense of not being able to bear true fruit for God (vs. 3, 6). The branch only dies after it is cut off from the vine. This would mean that Judas and others like him are some how superficially linked to Christ (the vine) in a false profession. They are united to Christ by a false profession only and they are void of any true fruit for God in their life.

Now wait a minute! You may say that Judas was the treasurer of the gang and he went along with the disciples and did many wonderful fruitful acts of labor and service for others. He probably gave to the poor as the treasurer of the bunch. He was the man out in the spotlight. Why, he appeared to be very humble and loving and just like the rest of the disciples. That is true. But Jesus clearly reveals that Judas was never cleansed of his sins and saved. He also indicated that Judas had never received Him.

Judas was united to Christ by profession only! He was attached to the vine (Jesus) only in a superficial way. **Judas was a sucker branch who looked healthy and alive, but he was dead in the sense that he did not bear any fruit.** But you say, "Look at all he did for Christ."

The Biblical truth is this. No unbeliever or false disciple can bear any real fruit for Christ or God. What outward good he is doing is just that, outward good! It is nothing more than man responding to that innate moral code that God has placed within every person (Romans 2:14-15). However, none of these things can be considered fruit for God because an unbeliever or unsaved person cannot produce fruit for God! *All that an unsaved person can do is produce the fruit of his own life and doings.* God's life is not in them to produce any true fruit, which is inspired and directed by Him and for God's glory. Fruitful Christians are those who have God's life within them so that they can produce fruit which is inspired, promoted and directed by Him. That's why Jesus said to the remaining disciples *after the departure of Judas* that He had chosen them and not Judas to bear fruit.

John 15:16 says:

“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”

Judas produced the fruit of his own doings as a false unregenerate disciple. It was not the fruit of God or the fruit, which God inspired him to do, for God’s life was not in him. He was lost! Therefore, the picture of the branch not producing fruit is accurate. Judas did not produce any fruit, which was for God or inspired by God! Judas was a sucker branch, which looked healthy and had leaves of profession growing all over him, but there was no fruit growing on his branch! He was dead to the ministry of fruit. This was the indicator that he was not saved.

The “burned” branches refer to professing Christians who, like Judas, are not genuinely saved and therefore are judged. Like an unproductive branch, a person without Christ is spiritually dead and without real fruit in their life. Therefore they will be punished in eternal fire (see Matt. 25:46). Judas was with Jesus; he seemed like a productive “branch,” but he did not have God’s life in him. Therefore, Judas departed and his destiny was like that of a fruitless sucker branch fit for the burning.

8. Judas was never saved because of what Jesus said about his name.

John 17:12

“ While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the **son of perdition**; that the scripture might be fulfilled.”

Judas Iscariot was a member of the twelve, but was never truly saved. This is why he was called “**the son of perdition.**” This name means the son of ruin or destruction. Judas would suffer spiritual ruin in the eternal judgment of Hell because he was never truly saved.

*Judas was not lost in the sense that he was once saved and then lost. He was lost because he was never saved.* This is why he was the son of damnation. When a man is lost he has no hope. By the

way, a man is born in this world lost and can only be lost once in his original sinfulness from birth (Romans 5:12). A man cannot be lost again and again after being saved (Ephesians 2:1-5). The Bible never pictures a man being lost on several occasions. Likewise, a person is born again only one time like a baby is born through his mother's womb (John 3:3-7). A person is not lost on several occasions and born again on several occasions. *The Bible does not teach re-re-re-generation. It teaches regeneration!* When a person has never been saved, they are doomed to an eternal judgment. They become a son of perdition. The name of Judas stands in the pages of the Bible as a person who was always lost and going to Hell because of his failure to receive Christ and His eternal salvation. If Judas was saved and lost, then the coming Antichrist will also be saved and lost. This is because both are said to be the "son of perdition" (John 17:12; 2 Thess. 2:3) Of course, neither of these Bible figures will ever possess salvation. It is utter madness to try and make such an invalid point.

9. Judas was never saved because of what Jesus said about his birth.

I have already made the claim that when the Bible records about Satan entering Judas, that this was *one* of the most terrible statements in the entire Bible. Well, it is true that this is one of the most terrible statements in all the Word of God. But I am now turning to *the* most terrible expression that was ever recorded in Scripture. It is something Jesus said in connection with the life of Judas.

Matthew 26:24

"The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! **it had been good for that man if he had not been born.**"

The word "woe" is a word, which is an exclamation of grief or sorrow. Jesus is saying that the man (Judas) should be full of grief and sorrow over what is about to be said. What did Jesus say? Jesus said that it would have been much better for Judas to never be physically born into this world. This is a stinging remark from the lips of our Lord. What did Jesus mean by such a statement as this? **Jesus was saying that the future judgment and terror for Judas in Hell is so**

**awful that it would have been better for Judas to have never existed!** When a man must suffer in the eternal flames of Hell for the terrible sins that he has committed, then it would be better for that man to never have been born. The future judgment of God upon the life of Judas for his evil deed of treachery will be so severe that it would have actually been better for Judas to never enter the world. I don't know of anything more terrifying in all of Scripture than what Jesus said about Judas. These are words of severe judgment.

Mark 14:21

“The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! **good were it for that man if he had never been born.**”

The spot of Judas in hell will be even hotter than Hitler's. This is the concluding reason why Judas could never have been saved. *It's because Jesus said that it would have been better for Judas to never be born into this world.* Jesus would never say this in regard to a believer who was cleansed of all their sins through the blood of Christ. Only an individual who is not cleansed and forgiven in God's sight could face the future terror and damnation of their body and soul in the place where the fire is never quenched.

Mark 9:43-45

“And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched.”

One would think that after Judas took the sop and Satan entered Judas that there would be no more mercy extended to Judas. But this is not the case. When Jesus meant Judas after the betrayal was all done, Jesus had words of compassion and mercy to this man.

Matthew 26:50 says:

“And Jesus said unto him, **Friend, wherefore art thou come?** Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him.”

Jesus gave Judas one more chance to receive His forgiveness and salvation. He addressed Judas as His friend. The very one who had betrayed him for thirty pieces of silver. Why did Jesus do this? It's because Jesus is the friend of sinners!

“Jesus what a Friend for sinners!  
Jesus Lover of my soul;  
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,  
He, my Savior, makes me whole.”

Judas was free to choose his own way. Judas was not predestined to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that Judas would betray Him because of His infinite gift of foreknowledge (John 6:64). However, the foreknowledge of God and the need for the fulfillment of Scripture did not fix the actions of Judas. This man willingly chose to reject Christ and betray Him. But even after the most evil act of all the ages was committed against Christ, the Lord extended His hand of saving grace to Judas. If at that particular moment Judas would have hugged the Savior and begged for genuine forgiveness, then Christ would have taken His loving arms around this betrayer and forgiven and saved this poor lost wretched soul. The bells of Heaven would have rung and the angels of Heaven would have rejoiced (Luke 15:10). But the heart of Judas was hard and cold to the offer of the Savior. He rejected Christ down to the end of his days. Alas, there can be no hope for that man who rejects Christ.

Donald Grey Barnhouse was called to the hospital by a doctor friend. An atheist who disliked Barnhouse was dying. Barnhouse responded, "I'll come right over to see him." The doctor noted, "But he doesn't like you." But Barnhouse insisted he was coming anyway. He entered the patient's room, grabbed a chair, sat down and folded his arms and said nothing. The atheist was curious and irritated. "All right, what do you want, Barnhouse?", he finally asked. Barnhouse answered, "I've come to see what it's like when an atheist goes to hell."

10. Judas was never saved because of what Jesus said about his kiss.

The cross was now on the horizon. The death of Christ was near. And where is the perpetrator of this event? Where is Judas? The Scripture says that he came and gave Jesus a kiss to reveal Jesus' identity to the soldiers. And what did Jesus say to Judas at that very moment when he kissed Him?

Luke 22:48 records the infamous account of that kiss of death:

“But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?”

The familiar kiss of death that Judas gave to Jesus would ultimately lead to the Savior's death upon the cross. Judas betrayed the Lord with a kiss that would lead to the Savior's death. *But the kiss of Judas was also a kiss of death for his own life and soul.* The action of Judas would be a reminder of the spiritual death that he would encounter under the eternal judgment of God. *Judas would face God's judgment someday for what he did because he kissed the Son in unbelief and rejection instead of belief.* This action of Judas and what Jesus said to him would actually be a final reminder of how Judas was never saved. **Judas was an unbeliever who failed to kiss the Son of God in faith.** The unclean and unrepentant Judas kissed the Son in unbelief; therefore, the Son will have to judge Judas.

Psalm 2:12 says:

“Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish *from* the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all they that put their trust in him.”

If Judas would have paid homage to the Lord and kissed the Son of God in humble belief, then he could have been saved! He could have taken his lips off of the Savior and began to sing:

“Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me!”

But instead, he refused to kiss the Son in belief. Therefore, Judas would have to face the righteous anger of the Son in the awful terror and judgment of an eternal Hell. Just think of it. Judas betrayed the Son of God with a kiss. He betrayed the most loving friend that any man could ever have. What a traitor! The creature kissed the Creator and betrayed Him! The sinner kissed the Savior and rejected His salvation!

William Edward Biederwolf said:

“But of all the acts of treachery that have blackened the pages of human history the most perfidious and the most heartless is that of Judas Iscariot when he betrayed his master with a kiss. For sheer diabolical baseness it stands without a parallel in all the annals of false and faithless friendship.”

Judas had betrayed the Lord of Glory for thirty pieces of silver. He loved the money more than the Master. He had chosen the riches over redemption. He sought for earthly satisfaction over the Savior. Now the final hour would mean eternal judgment upon his wicked soul. Such was the terrible lot of Judas Iscariot.

M. F. Rich, an atheist, cried, “I would rather lie on a stove and broil for a million years than go into eternity with the eternal horrors that hang over my soul! I have given my immortality for gold, and its weight sinks me into an endless, hopeless, helpless Hell.”

Peter had some things to say about Judas in that time just prior to the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit would fall and begin His new baptizing work to form the church. The time had come to choose the replacement for Judas. This of course brought back some sad memories for Peter.

Acts 1:17-20

“For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry. Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama (Aramaic), that

is to say, The field of blood. For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.”

Peter’s account of the purchase of the land and the death of Judas appears to contradict the record in Matthew 27:3–10. This account clearly portrays Judas hanging himself because he was caught for this dastardly act.

Matthew 27:3-8

“Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What *is that* to us? see thou *to that*. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter’s field, to bury strangers in. Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.”

We find that Judas repented or more literally “regretted himself.” Judas was not repentant for what he had done to Jesus. He regretted that he had been caught and made a public spectacle. The record says that Judas cast down the money and went outside and “hanged himself.” After this the chief priests took the blood money and bought the field for their own burial ground for Gentiles.

When returning to Acts 1:18, we must now understand that Judas did not buy the field personally, but since it was his money that paid for it, in that sense, he was the buyer. Furthermore, since the thirty pieces of silver were considered “blood money,” the field was called “the field of blood” (Matt. 27:8). It was not Judas’ blood that gave the field its name, for the Jews would not use as a sacred cemetery a place that had been defiled by a suicide. It was actually called the field of blood as a reminder of the blood of Christ that was shed because of this act of treachery. *Judas hanged himself in a place that was obviously overlooking a cliff and apparently the rope broke and his body burst open when it hit the ground.* This is why Peter talks about “his

bowels” (intestines) or inward organs gushing forth from his body (Acts 1:18).

Peter rehearses in more detail what really happened to Judas so that he can come to his main point. The disciples want to choose the man that God wants to replace Judas with. They want a man who will be true and not a traitor. So they prayed and said:

Acts 1:24

“Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all *men*, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen.”

Peter was aware that God knew the unbelieving heart of Judas and would once again know the heart of the man that they now choose to take the place of Judas. Their desire was for a spiritual replacement that was true and genuine. In any event, Peter says something about the fate of Judas that is most terrifying. While speaking about the new man who would replace Judas and come into the ministry of discipleship, Peter reminds all of us concerning the perilous end that Judas had to face because he was unforgiven and died as an unbeliever.

Acts 1:25

“That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, **that he might go to his own place.**”

It is important to understand that Judas fell from his place and position as a disciple. He did not fall from salvation because he was never saved as Jesus said. But Judas fell much farther than he expected. He fell into his own lost place within the regions of hell. Today Judas has his “own place” of suffering according to his own degree of sins. And at this very moment he is suffering in his own place of judgment, which he deserves. *Judas is in hell because he was never washed clean of his sins and saved.* He chose the broad road of unbelief instead of the narrow road of belief in the Savior (Matt. 7:13-14). Therefore, Judas is burning in hell at this very moment. Dear friend, do not be like Judas. Some of you who are reading this paper are going through the motions and doing many

good things like Judas did. However, at the end of your life on earth you will also go to your “own place” of suffering and torment in hell. You can be sure that you will have your “own place” in hell if you do not get saved. Your soul will be lost forever!

An infidel said, "There is one thing that mars all the pleasures of my life." "Indeed!" replied his friend, "what is that?" He answered, "I am afraid the Bible is true. If I could know for certain that death is an eternal sleep, I should be happy: my joy would be complete! But here is the thorn that stings me. This is the sword that pierces my very soul, -- if the Bible is true, I am lost forever."

Dear friend, if you die without forgiveness and salvation like Judas, then you will be lost forever in the unending doom of judgment and hell! May I remind you today that you do not have to go to hell. You do not have to play the game and end up in hell like Judas did. For Judas it is too late. However, for you who are reading this paper, there is still time. While you are still able, I beg of you to receive Christ as your savior and be saved. If you fail to kiss the Son of God in belief, then some day you will fall over the cliff that leads into an eternal hell! Do not delay my friend. Come to Christ today and ask Him to save you. He died on the cross bearing all of your sins and judgment. Believe that Christ alone can save you today from hell because of what He has already done for you upon the cross.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 explains the Gospel:

“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”

Hebrews 9:26 says of Christ:

“For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath **he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.**”

Jesus took your sins upon Himself as He hung upon the cross and paid for your judgment, which was hell. He did it all for you my friend.

Now you must reach out and personally receive His forgiveness, which results in your salvation from hell. Jesus will forgive all of your sins forever and save you from hell if you will personally respond to Christ today. So why don't you call upon the Savior today and escape the condemnation of Judas. Call out in simple faith and believe on Christ to be your Savior from hell and damnation.

Romans 10:13 says:

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

And Judas went **“to his own place.”** Of him how true are the words:

“I flung away the keys  
That might have open set  
The golden shrines of day,  
But clutch the keys of darkness yet.

I hear others  
Go singing into God's harvest;  
I that with them might have chosen,  
Here below grope shuddering  
At the gates of hell.”