

72. Judas Agreed to Betray Jesus

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children be prepared for the coming of the Lord. Then they will be taken to heaven at the Rapture of the church. That will make it possible for them to enjoy the liberty that we have in Christ because they will not need to fear either the seven years of tribulation that are coming or eternal judgment. In this topic, we will learn about one who is experiencing eternal judgment because of the choices that he made in his life. We will see that Judas agreed to betray Jesus to the Jewish religious leaders.

During the last week before the crucifixion, chapter twenty-one concluded by saying that Jesus was teaching in the temple during the day. At night, He and the disciples went out of the city and camped on the mountain called Olivet. This area was just a short walk across the Kidron Valley from the area where the temple was located in the city of Jerusalem. That made it easy for Jesus to return to the temple each morning to teach the many people who came to hear Him. However, at the same time, the chief priests and the scribes were looking for an opportunity to kill Jesus, but they did not know how to do that without people around since the crowds arrived to hear Jesus at the temple early in the morning.

Luke 22:1-6 says, “Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover. And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people. Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude.” Suddenly, we see in these verses that the chief priests and scribes were given a way to kill Jesus by Judas even though He was one of the Twelve.

The time for the Feast of Unleavened Bread was getting very. The Feast of Unleavened Bread began with the Passover and was followed by seven days when the people did not put any yeast into their bread. This was done each year to remember how the Lord had delivered the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt when they were slaves. God had told Moses in Exodus 12:11, ““And thus you shall eat it: *with* a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD’s Passover.”” Then, God said, in Exodus 12:14-15, ““So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.”” Large crowds had come to Jerusalem to celebrate this feast.

It was at this very time when the chief priests wondered how to catch Jesus that Satan entered into Judas. Judas was one of the Twelve and had deceived all of the other disciples who thought that he was a faithful follower of Jesus just as they were. Jesus had told the disciples much earlier in John 6:70-71, “Jesus answered them, ‘Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?’ He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.” Judas knew that Jesus was talking about him but none of the other disciples even

suspected Judas. Once Satan entered Judas, he went to the chief priests and captains and asked them how he could betray Jesus to them.

The chief priests and captains were happy to hear the statement of Judas and agreed to pay him money to betray Jesus to them. Matthew 26:14-15 says, “Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, ‘What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?’ And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.” From that moment on, Judas had begun to look for the opportunity to betray Jesus to the chief priests at a time when none of the multitude would be present.

Jesus knew exactly what Judas was planning to do. As a result, Jesus was the One who controlled the time when Judas would betray Him. Jesus was carrying out the plan of the Father for Him right down to the exact moment that each thing happened. Luke 22:7-9 says, “Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed. And He sent Peter and John, saying, ‘Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat.’ So they said to Him, ‘Where do You want us to prepare?’” Here, we see that Jesus sent Peter and John to prepare the Passover. Judas did not know where Jesus was going to eat the Passover until he went with Jesus to the Passover that evening. This meant that Judas could not betray Jesus during the Passover meal. As we see in John chapters 13 through 17, it was during and after the Passover meal that Jesus shared some of His most important teachings with the disciples. Judas had no understanding of the love that Jesus had for him. In addition, he was also showing his complete lack of love for Christ.

The New Testament clearly shows that Judas said and did the things that he said and did because he was controlled by an evil heart. John 12:4-6 says, “But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s *son*, who would betray Him, said, ‘Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?’ This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.” These verses show that the heart of Judas was motivated by self-gain and the love of money. 1 Timothy 6:9-10 says, “But those who desire to be rich fall *into* temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of evil*, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” Judas certainly showed the destructiveness of this root.

In fact, it was after Judas left the upper room where Jesus and His disciples ate the Passover meal that Jesus gave His disciples the new commandment. John 13:30 says, “Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.” Just a few minutes after Judas went out, Jesus said, in John 13:34-35, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” Judas could certainly not carry out this command and so Jesus waited until he was gone to give this commandment to the other disciples.

Luke 22:10-13 goes on to tell about the instructions that Jesus gave to Peter and John as He sent them to prepare the Passover. Those verses say, “And He said to them, ‘Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which

he enters. Then you shall say to the master of the house, “The Teacher says to you, ‘Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’” Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready.’ So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover.”

Here, we see that Jesus gave Peter and John very exact details about the way that they would find the house where they were to prepare the Passover. Jesus told the two what to do once they had entered the city of Jerusalem. They were to look for a man carrying a pitcher of water. Normally, women were the ones who went to the wells to get water. John 4:7 says, “A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give Me a drink.’” As a result, a man carrying a pitcher of water would be easily recognized. Peter and John were to follow this man to the house where he was taking the pitcher of water. The fact that Jesus knew that the man would be carrying a water pitcher and that he would go to the house where Jesus wanted to celebrate the Passover with His disciples is just a reminder of the fact that Jesus knew all things

Then they were to talk to the owner of the house and tell him, “The Teacher says to you, ‘Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’” Here, we see that Jesus was known at least by those who were followers of Jesus as The Teacher. That is a key thing to observe because it shows us that even though Jesus did many miracles that He was known as The Teacher rather than the miracle worker. He did miracles as a part of His ministry but that was not the main emphasis of His ministry.

Jesus said that the owner of the house would show them a large furnished upper room. Jews came to Jerusalem from many different places to celebrate the various Jewish feasts. As a result, there were many houses in Jerusalem where the owners had large rooms on the top story of the house that groups of Jews from other areas of the country or world could rent so that they could celebrate these feasts together. Jesus told Peter and John that the owner would show them such a room. Peter and John saw everything that Jesus had said would happen did happen. That was where they were to prepare for Jesus and the disciples to eat the Passover. Peter and John then prepared the Passover.

Judas showed that it was possible to deceive the other disciples so that they all thought that he was a true follower of Jesus. However, instead, he was controlled the entire time by an evil heart of unbelief. We want to help our physical and spiritual children realize that not everyone who claims to be a Christian has a true faith. That is why it is important for them to understand how to clearly explain the message of repentance and faith to any who do not give evidence of true faith. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to explain the Gospel clearly.