

- ↵ **Luke 6:12-16;** We've been encouraged greatly by these common men who were elevated to an uncommon call.
- ✓ Now we come to the last name on the list and the dark story of what a human heart is capable of when not surrendered to the Lord.
 - ✓ Judas plays a prominent role among the disciples; he was among the privileged 12, but he had a heart that was unchanged.
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1. The Apostle Judas Iscariot

- ✓ Judas means "God or Jehovah Leads"; a great name, religious name, hopeful name.
 - ✓ Iscariot has to do with where he's from, Kerioth, in southern Judah.
 - ✓ His is a sobering lesson on how bad the human heart can be. It's one thing for profound evil to come from the under the influence of Satan, but for this evil to come from under the influence of Christ?
 - ✓ Judas is an important lesson on committed unbelief.
 - ✓ So, you're going to explain it better than Jesus did for Judas? You're going to demonstrate the presence of God better?
 - ✓ This man saw, touched, heard, and lived with God Himself for 3 years and was unconverted!
 - ✓ There exists a form of unbelief, and it's not rare! Unbelief that refuses to submit itself to God no matter how clear and powerful the presentation.
 - ✓ Judas is not rare; he's common in the human experience. All who will be in Hell are like him; we just get to see what that person is really like under the intense light of being an apostle.
Matthew 7:22.
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2. As I have said many times, it is this rejection of the real Jesus for a Jesus as we want Him to be.

- ✓ Judas experienced the real Jesus like nobody, but 11 other men had, and he betrayed Him for 30 pieces of silver because Jesus didn't fit into his way of thinking and agenda.
 - ✓ Why do you think he was ever a follower of Jesus to begin with if he didn't believe the Bible about the coming Messiah?
 - ✓ Why would he have given up three years of his life if he didn't think that Jesus was that Messiah?
 - ✓ Judas sells Jesus out for the difference in a definition. His definition of Jesus was one that would proper him. Jesus didn't do that in his thinking.
 - ✓ The other disciples had these same aspirations. The only difference is that they were willing to give up their views and submit them to whatever Jesus said.
 - ✓ **Matthew 7:13-14,** That way is as narrow as a single man who will not be what we want, but what God wants.
 - ✓ Judas followed Jesus and betrayed Him for religious reasons. The Sanhedrin condemned Him for religious reasons; most will reject Him for religious reasons. They believe in Heaven, God, and salvation, but they want it their way; that way is the broad way.
 - ✓ Self -promotion, financial prosperity, and God serves their wishes; it's the predominant religion today.
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3. There is more in the Scriptures about Judas than most of the other apostles. Psalms 41:9; Psalms 55:12; Zechariah 11:2 Even though his is predicted, this isn't some kind of determinism. He's always painted as a willful sinner and one who chose his own path and not a victim of destiny.

- ✓ We have a hard time with predestination, but if we will remember that it is based on pre-knowledge, how could God condemn Judas before he was ever born? Because He knew him before he was ever born.
 - ✓ Why, if He knew, did Jesus appoint Judas as an apostle? Because of this, **Luke 19:10**.
 - ✓ There was not a way to save outside of His death by crucifixion, so someone had to betray Him, condemn, and crucify, but He is allowing and orchestrating all those things to take place.
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4. The Son of Perdition

- ✓ **John 17:11-12**, That word is used on only one other occasion in the New Testament; it's the same word the Antichrist is called in **2nd Thessalonians 2:3**.
 - ✓ "Son of the Devil" is what it effectively means.
 - ✓ Peter impetuous, argues with the Son of God; Matthew is a thug; Simon is a zealot assassin; understand, nobody pointed the finger at Judas!
 - ✓ They all became better, but he became progressively worse. They give him the purse of money, not Peter, not James, and not Matthew.
 - ✓ Time proved who he was. The rest fell in love with and surrendered themselves to the Savior. Judas became harder and harder as Jesus failed to live up to his expectations.
 - ✓ How do we know the truly saved from the pretenders? Time will tell.
 - ✓ It is as if Jesus went out of His way to demonstrate that anyone could have qualified as long as there was complete surrender.
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5. We don't know much else, but don't let these guys' obscurity cloud your respect for them.

- ✓ It is enough for us to know that they were chosen by the Lord, empowered by the Spirit, and carried the gospel to the world of their day.
 - ✓ The vessel is not the issue; the One who grasps it, is.
 - ✓ These guys were sold out to Him as Lord; that's it.
 - ✓ If you are following Jesus for the wrong reasons, you aren't actually following Jesus, but your idea of what you want Him to be.
 - ✓ **John 6:66-67** They weren't committed to Him for what they could get from Him, but because He was the Holy One of God.
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