

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Judas, How Could You?

Jerry Fite

Before Jesus and the apostles gathered for the Passover meal, Judas had already given in to Satan’s temptation to betray the Lord. The contract for 30 pieces of silver had been agreed upon between Judas and the chief priests (*John 13:1, Matthew 14:10-11*). With this in mind, it is still astonishing that Judas would still be willing to betray Jesus after the event that was about to follow: Jesus washing the apostles’ feet, yes, even Judas’ feet (*John 13:5,12*).

Washing feet in Biblical times was often reserved for the servant which expressed hospitality from the host (*I Sam. 25:41, Lk. 7:44*) Jesus does not call in a servant, but lowers himself to the feet of each reclining disciple. He washes and wipes the feet clean with the towel he had girded about his waist. Jesus was teaching all the disciples, who that night were arguing over who was the greatest, that all were to be servants of one another. The lesson that greatness was found by serving others was needed, and Jesus, the great Lord, was willing to teach by example. Peter recoiled at first at the thought of Jesus washing

his feet, and you probably would have as well, but Judas did not. Judas, how could you not have stopped your plans to betray the servant at your feet?

Judas’s conscience was seared. His obstinate will had no internal check. He had made a deal with evil for thirty pieces of silver, and no stark jolt of humility and kindness toward him was going to touch his heart. How could a religious teacher knowingly speak religious falsehood to unsuspecting souls? A determined will to have popularity and money coupled with a seared conscience will lead any of us to that sad end (*2 Tim. 3:6, Titus 1:11, I Tim. 4:2*). How can a spouse cheat knowing he or she has a faithful spouse waiting at home? A determined will for one’s selfish pleasure coupled with a seared conscience will take anyone down to such sadness and ruin.

Jesus that night at supper told his disciples that one of them would betray him. He that dipped his hand with him in the dish, would do the unthinkable deed. Judas, with your plan already set, how could you of all people say, “*Is it I, Rabbi?*” (*Matt. 26:25*)? Judas was not only living with a

seared conscience, he was comfortable living as a pretender behind the mask of hypocrisy. He was already living secretly as a thief, stealing from the common purse of the Lord and the disciples (*John 12:6*). When we can look in the mirror seeing the hypocrite, and walk away, forgetting who we really are, we are seriously blind. How can people attend worship services on Sunday and live like the Devil throughout the week before others? They, like Judas, have become comfortable in pretending.

The apostles never suspected Judas as the one. After all, he was entrusted with the money. Even when Jesus says to Judas, “*What thou doest, do quickly*”; his fellow disciples thought Judas was being sent either to acquire supplies or give to the poor, surely not to betray Jesus. (*John 13: 27-29*). When Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss, he may have startled others. How could it be? Betraying Jesus with a kiss was simply the result of one determined to gain money; and with a seared conscience, was comfortable behind the mask of hypocrisy.