

# 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?

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**B**efore 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 thirty pieces of silver had been verbally sealed with money up front and both parties, Judas and the chief priests in agreement (*John 13:1, Matthew 14:10-11*). With this in mind it is still astonishing that Judas would be willing to betray Jesus after the event that was about to follow: Jesus initiates the washing of His 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 Samuel 25:41, Luke 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 and I probably would as well, but Judas did not. Judas, how could you not have stopped your plans to

betray the willing and humble servant at your feet?

Judas’ conscience was seared. His obstinate will had no internal governor to keep him in check. He had made a deal with evil for thirty pieces of silver, and no jolt of humility and kindness toward Jesus was going to touch his heart.

How could a religious teacher knowingly offer religious falsehood to unsuspecting souls? A strong desire for popularity and money coupled with a seared conscience will lead any of us to that sad end of eternal destruction (*2 Timothy 3:6, Titus 1:11, I Timothy 4:2*). How could a spouse cheat on his or her mate knowing he or she has a faithful spouse waiting at home? A determined will to satisfy one’s selfish pleasure coupled with a seared conscience will lead one down the deceitful pleasure road ending in personal sorrow and ruin (*Proverbs 7:21-22*).

Jesus 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?*” (*Matthew 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? They like Judas, have become comfortable pretending.

The apostles never suspected Judas as the one who would betray Jesus. 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 help to the poor. Turning the Lord in through betrayal was certainly far removed from their minds (*cf. John 13:27-29*). When Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss, he may have startled others. How could it be? How could he so quickly turn from following Jesus as a disciple and representing Jesus as an apostle to betray Jesus so cruelly with a kiss? Betraying Jesus with a kiss was simply the result of one determined to gain money. With a seared conscience, Judas was comfortable with being cruel. He had no problem hiding his evil heart behind the deceitful mask of hypocrisy.