

Series: Disciples of Christ

FALSE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

JOHN 18:1-2

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¹ *When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples.*

² *And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples.*

Introduction:

What is the difference between an apostle and a disciple?

Disciple – means a learner who seeks to imitate his teacher; in other words, a pupil, a student. In the gospels the 12 were usually called disciples because as long as the Lord was with them they were still learners.

Apostle – means one sent forth; one chosen and sent with a special commission as the fully authorized representative of the sender.

Several things were true of the apostles:

1. They were chosen directly by the Lord Himself.

Matthew 10:1

¹ *And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.*

Mark 3:13

¹³ *And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him.*

Luke 6:13

¹³ *And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;*

2. They were endued with signs and gifts which were the divine credentials of their office

Matthew 10:1

¹ *And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.*

Acts 28:7-9

⁷ *In the same quarters were possessions of the chief man of the island, whose name was Publius; who received us, and lodged us three days courteously.*

⁸ *And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him. ⁹ So when this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed:*

Acts 5:12-16

¹² *And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. ¹³ And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. ¹⁴ And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) ¹⁵ Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. ¹⁶ There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.*

3. They had to be eyewitnesses of the resurrection

Acts 1:22

²² *Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.*

1 Corinthians 9:1

¹ Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord?

Eleven of the disciples or apostles were used of God in amazing ways.

Their lives prove that ordinary people can be used of the Lord in extraordinary ways.

The life of Judas serves as a warning about the dangers of wasted opportunities, hardness of heart, wicked lusts, and spiritual carelessness.

Judas played his part so well that no one but Jesus Himself knew that Judas was a fraud. Judas didn't stand out.

He was a false follower and no one ever noticed!

I would like to take some time and explore Judas and consider this thought "False Disciples of Christ"

Note:

1. THE COMPREHENSION OF A FALSE DISCIPLE

A. The Know People

Matthew 10:2-4

² Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

Judas was numbered with the other disciples. He had traveled with them... talked with them ... lived with them! People recognized him as one of Christ's followers.

Today there are men and women who:

- Are members of churches
- Have made professions of faith
- Have been baptized
- Teach classes
- Serve on committees

- Stand in pulpits

Have multi-million dollar ministries

There are many who walk and SERVE alongside true disciples, they are numbered with the followers of Christ but they do not truly know Him!

Not only do they know people but:

B. The Know the Places

John 18:1-2

¹ When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples.

² And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples.

When it came time to betray Christ, Judas knew exactly where to find Him! Judas had been with Jesus and the others in this place several times before. He knew where to go!

This is very similar to many people today, they know the routine... When the time comes, they go where they are “supposed” to go!

There are people who attend every time the doors are open but are as lost as Judas was! I am sure in the time

that Judas spent with Jesus, He had a firm grasp on the “routine”

You can know all of the rituals, routines and religious lingo and still die lost in your sins!

Not only do they know people and places but:

C. They Know the Plan

Mark 3:14

¹⁴ And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,

Judas was “ordained” by Jesus. This word has the idea of training.

The Lord took the twelve and made them ready for the mission He was about to send them to accomplish.

Judas witnessed the character and compassion of Christ.

He heard the Lord’s words and saw His works.

Judas hardened his heart against every attempt of the Lord to reach him.

Imagine the miracles that Judas witnessed, consider the sermons that he heard from the Lord, think of all of

those intimate conversations that Christ had with His disciples....Judas knew the plan of salvation, Judas was present with the Lord for over 3 years!!!

You may be here and you know the plan:

- You were raised in church
- You attended Sunday School
- You have heard many sermons
- You have prayed many prayers
- You know the plan of salvation
- You have read your Bible

None of these things matter if you have never surrendered to Christ!

It's not about knowledge it is about a relationship!

Note not only the "Comprehension of a False Disciple" but also:

2. THE CAPABILITY OF A FALSE DISCIPLE

John 13:21-26

²¹ 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. ²² Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake.

²³ Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. ²⁴ Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake. ²⁵ He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it? ²⁶ Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.

The Lord proclaims that one of his disciples... His closest followers would betray Him. All of the disciples began to look and consider who he was referring to. Peter even prompted John to ask Jesus who He was referring to. They did not say "I bet it is that hypocrite Judas"

What is the "Capability" of False disciples? They are capable of deceiving.

- They can deceive other disciples
- They can deceive a lost world

- They can even deceive themselves.

But they CANNOT deceive God!

Consider what the Lord says on the subject:

Matthew 7:22-23

²² 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? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Note not only the “Comprehension of a False Disciple” and the “Capability of a False Disciple” but also:

3. THE CONTRADICTIONS OF A FALSE DISCIPLE

Judas’ life was filled with contradictions. He had many opportunities to depart but he remained faithful...

- He even remained when others left.

John 6:66-71

⁶⁶ From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. ⁶⁷ Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? ⁶⁸ Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ And we believe and are sure

that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? ⁷¹ He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.

The Lord had just revealed some hard truths and many that were following went away. The Lord looked at His disciples and asked if they would depart... Judas REMAINED!

- Judas also “appeared” to be concerned about the ministry.

John 12:4-6

⁴ Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, ⁵ Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? ⁶ This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

Maybe not the most spiritual of comments but notice that Judas used the ministry to the poor as a motive. Judas LOOKED AND PLAYED THE PART WELL! Eventually his true colors were revealed.

Notice:

- Judas sought out the opportunity to betray Christ

Matthew 26:14-16

¹⁴ Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, ¹⁵ And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶ And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

- Judas seized the opportunity to betray Christ

Luke 22:47-48

⁴⁷ And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. ⁴⁸ But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?

Judas went to the religious leaders because he wanted to “betray” the Lord. Like the rest, Judas was expecting the Lord to overthrow Rome and deliver Israel. He thought the Lord would immediately restore the kingdom in Israel, and reward His followers.

When it became apparent that the Lord was not going to do those things, Judas became disillusioned with the Lord.

There are many people who fill churches today who, like Judas, live lives filled with contradictions. They appear to have honorable intentions. They seem to care about the work of the ministry. They play the game, talk the talk and in many ways walk the walk, but eventually their true colors will be revealed.

Note not only the “Comprehension of a False Disciple” the “Capability of a False Disciple” the “Contradiction of a False Disciple” but also:

4. THE CONDEMNATION OF A FALSE DISCIPLE

Matthew 27:3-5

³ 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, ⁴ Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. ⁵ And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

After the Lord was arrested, Judas began to experience remorse not repentance for what he had done.

He tried to return the money, but it was too late, they refused to take the money. Judas threw the money down in the Temple. Then and he went out and hanged himself.

Acts 1:25

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.*

Judas went to Hell because of his unbelief, but he had to work hard to get there.

Every sermon, every act of kindness, every miracle, everything that Judas had witnessed in the past 3 years was a call from the Lord to repent and believe on Him.

Close:

A lost man can do anything the saved man can do, and he may even do it better.

Just because an individual - preaches, prays, witnesses, gives, works in the church and attends church ...does not prove that he is saved. A lost man can do all of that, and he may have success. You can't base your relationship with Christ on what you do.

If you want to go to Heaven, you must be born again.

John 3:3

³ *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*