

Introduction

1. The Upper Room – Judas about to go
2. This dark shadow over events
3. One of the Bible's frightening facts

1. WHAT WE KNOW OF THIS MAN

- 1) one of the 12 disciples/apostles – chosen by Christ (v.18) – always mentioned last in the lists of disciples – usually with stigma ("traitor" – "betrayed him")
- 2) his father was Simon (John 6:71) – not clear what "Iscariot" signifies
- 3) treasurer (John 13:29) – a thief (12:6), i.e. he pilfered from the purse – critical of many for "wasting" the ointment – hypocritical concern for the poor
- 4) looked for opportunity craftily to betray Christ
 - 30 pieces of silver = price of a slave (Exodus 21:32)
 - betrayed Christ on the Thursday night – the surprise of the 11 disciples – the identity revealed by the sop.
- 5) Betrayal: in Gethsemane – by a kiss! – subsequent remorse and suicide (Matthew 27: 3-10); Acts 1:18-19) – "to his own place"

2. HOW ARE WE TO THINK OF THIS MAN?

- 1) He was an apostate – committed the unpardonable sin – fulfilled the warnings of Hebrews 6 + 10
- 2) His spiritual condition: unregenerate but outwardly religious – gifted but without grace – for 3 years looked like a disciple but

showed up in the end.

- 3) Having "no experience of conversion" he sank into the power of Satan progressively: covetous – embraced Satan's suggestion to betray Christ (John 13:2) – refused to repent for the sop – was "entered into" by Satan – went out into the "night"

3. LESSONS TO LEARN FROM JUDAS' LIFE

- 1) If men enter the ministry without grace they are in danger of ruining themselves and those who hear them.
- 2) Christ's enemies may be in the church and may look very like His friends
- 3) Every prophecy of scripture will be fulfilled in its time: Psalms 41, 55, 109 all refer to Judas – also Zechariah 11.
- 4) We face a mystery: Why did Christ choose this man (v.18)?
I suggest:
 - (i) to warn us to expect antichrists
 - (ii) we should not be surprised by the Papacy
 - (iii) men's true characters do not always come to light at once
- 5) There is a difference between God's secret will and His revealed will:
Q: "Did Judas do God's will?" Yes and No.
- 6) All the evils of God's enemies are overruled for good: the Cross!

CONCLUSION

Let this man's life be a warning:
"Examine yourselves".

PSALM

109: 1 – 6

41: 5 – 10

55: 12 - 17