

LIFE WITH THE MASTER

“My Own Familiar Friend”

of Jesus and Judas

Introduction

- Questions of Relevance:
 - ❑ Have you ever been betrayed?
 - ❑ Have you ever been directly affected by the suicide of a friend or family member?
 - ❑ Have you ever known someone to be wrong and wanted to expose their sin to the world in a spirit of judgment instead of reproofing them in the spirit of meekness?

We are going to examine some of the dynamics of the personal relationship between the Lord Jesus and Judas. This narrative is not a tragedy in the Greek style like Oedipus, not a tale of unavoidable fate like MacBeth or Mordred of the Arthurian Legends. Fatalism is pagan in nature and origin. God has granted to us freedom of will. Prophecy, predestination, and foreknowledge do not equate to a fatalistic universe.

This being said, it would be a near impossibility to tell this tale without the end in view. The Holy Spirit Himself did not allow the record to be written that way. In the very introduction of the twelve, Judas is shown as the traitor (Matt. 10:4). Judas walked with Jesus. Judas betrayed the Master and took his own life. The beauty of the story is in the beauty of holiness exhibited by Jesus as He walked through life with this disciple.

I. A Familiar Friend

A. Prophecy at the Last Supper

John 13:18-19

18 I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.

19 Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he. KJV¹

Jesus quotes the words of the prophet David (Acts 2:29-30) found in Psalm 41:9.

Ps 41:9

Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me. NKJV

The words “my own familiar friend” is the translation of the Hebrew ‘iysh shalom, “my man of peace.” It was a man with whom He had counted Himself safe. “In whom I trusted” gives reference to the refuge of a battle tower. This man ate His bread. He was in covenant with Him. It was such a man that lifted his heel against our Lord.

B. Peter’s Testimony

¹ All Scripture references are from the King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

Acts 1:20-22

20 For it is written in the book of Psalms, **Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein:** and **his bishoprick let another take.**

21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

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.

It has already been noted that King David was a prophet. Many of the Psalms in which he cries out to God show that his very life's history was a prophetic type of what was going to happen to the Greater Son of David, the Messiah Jesus.

Ps 69:18-27

18 Draw nigh unto my soul, and redeem it: deliver me because of mine enemies.

19 Thou hast known my reproach, and my shame, and my dishonour: mine adversaries are all before thee.

20 Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none.

21 They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

22 Let their table become a snare before them: and that which should have been for their welfare, let it become a trap.

23 Let their eyes be darkened, that they see not; and make their loins continually to shake.

24 Pour out thine indignation upon them, and let thy wrathful anger take hold of them.

25 **Let their habitation be desolate; and let none dwell in their tents.**

26 For they persecute him whom thou hast smitten; and they talk to the grief of those whom thou hast wounded.

27 Add iniquity unto their iniquity: and let them not come into thy righteousness.

The wording about his office being taken by another is quoted from Psalm 109. This Psalm contains a prophetic curse upon the one who would betray the innocent blood. When one reads it, one need not wonder why Judas's betrayal caused the heart of Jesus to be filled with sorrow.

Ps 109:8, 14-19

8 Let his days be few; and **let another take his office.**

14 Let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered with the LORD; and let not the sin of his mother be blotted out.

15 Let them be before the LORD continually, that he may cut off the memory of them from the earth.

16 Because that he remembered not to shew mercy, but persecuted the poor and needy man, that he might even slay the broken in heart.

17 As he loved cursing, so let it come unto him: as he delighted not in blessing, so let it be far from him.

18 As he clothed himself with cursing like as with his garment, so let it come into his bowels like water, and like oil into his bones.

19 Let it be unto him as the garment which covereth him, and for a girdle wherewith he is girded continually.

C. Entrusted Disciple

1. Carried the bag

Matt 9:9

And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.

Matthew had worked as a government official in collecting customs. Of the twelve, he is the only one mentioned that had accounting credentials. Yet, it wasn't Matthew who was chosen to carry the bag. That duty was given to Judas.

John 13:29

For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor.

2. A Judean

His surname was Iscariot, which indicates that he was from Kerioth, a Judean town. Recall, Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. When confronted by His immediate family, it was to His disciples that he gave the name "brother."

Matt 12:47-49

47 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?

49 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

3. A Priest

Matt 27:5

And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

The Greek word translated "temple" is naos, and it indicates an inner sanctum in the Temple, a room where only priests could go.

II. The Road to Perdition – A Choice Taken

A. Chosen, Ordained, and Empowered

1. Chosen

Luke 6:12-16

12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray,
and continued all night in prayer to God.
13 And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose
twelve, whom also he named apostles;
14 Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John,
Philip and Bartholomew,
15 Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes,
16 And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.

2. Ordained
Mark 3:14a “And he ordained twelve”

For what purpose did He set the twelve apart?

3. Empowered
Mark 3:14-15, 19
14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send
them forth to preach,
15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:
19 And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house.

Matt 10:1

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 6:7, 12-13

7 And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and
two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;
12 And they went out, and preached that men should repent.
13 And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and
healed them.

B. Covetous, Contentious, and Condemned

1. Covetous
John 12:6
Now he did not say this because he cared for the poor but because he was a thief;
and having the bag (the money box, the purse of the Twelve), he took for himself
what was put into it [pilfering the collections]. AMP

Acts 1:18 – He bought the field with what he stole.

Luke 8:1-3 – A major portion of the proceeds came from wealthy women.

2. Contentious
 - John 12:1-5 (evidence of misogyny); Mark 14:10
 - Mark 9:33-35 – who should be greater?
 - Seeking chief seats – Luke 14:7-11; Matt 20:20-28
3. Condemned – John 6:66-71
Note that the Lord says “is a devil” not “has a devil.” Judas had caught what the Devil had thrown.

John 13:2, 27

- C. Deceived, Defiled, and Damned
 1. Deceived – 1 Tim 6:10
He must have been deceived to think that Jesus wouldn’t know that he was stealing!
 2. Defiled - John 13:10
 3. Damned – John 13:25-27; John 17:12

III. The Path of Redemption – A Choice Declined

- A. The Last Supper – John 13:1-30
 1. Seating arrangements – John 13:4-6
 2. Warnings at the table – Matt 26:21-25
 3. Sorrow over the loss – John 13:21 “troubled in spirit”
- B. The Garden – Matt 26:47-50; Luke 22:47-48
- C. The Resurrected Lord
 1. The suddenness of narrative – Matt 27:3-5
 2. Comparative mentions
 Mark 16:4
 Luke 24:33-34
 John 20:19-24
 Acts 1:1-3, 11
 3. His room filled. Acts 1:21-22
*This was left for the apostles to do because Judas killed himself **after** the ascension.*

Conclusion

Judas had the direct benefit of being with the Lord from the baptism of John to the ascension. In all that time, Jesus dealt with him personally without accusing him publicly. Ultimately, the decision to allow the devil to rule his heart was Judas’s alone. In this story we see the ultimate love and forgiveness of the Lord along with His holy justice. We also see the awesome and fearful privilege of freedom of will.