



The Tribe of Judas by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, 'Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?' This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, 'Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always.' (**John 12:1-8**)

This is the only Gospel account of the character of Judas Iscariot so clearly identified by his long-standing practice of thievery. His sin was hidden to "the twelve," but not to Jesus Christ. John later explained what Jesus had predicted:

'Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?' He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve" (**John 6:70-71**).

Jesus knew the heart of Judas, before Judas made it obvious by his course of action. But, even by the time of the Lord's Supper,

Jesus said to him, 'What you do, do quickly.' But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him. For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, 'Buy those things we need for the feast,' or that he should give something to the poor' (**John 13:27-29**).

The facts about Judas Iscariot are established by plain Scriptures:

- 1) He was the son of Simon;
- 2) He was "one of the twelve" (**John 6:71**);
- 3) He was not a "traitor" when selected, but became one (**Luke 6:16**);
- 4) "He was a thief" who continually stole from the disciples' "money box" (**John 12:6**);
- 5) He "betrayed" Jesus for "thirty pieces of silver" (**Matthew 26:14-15**);
- 6) "Satan entered Judas" when he struck the bargain with the chief priests (**Luke 22:1-6**);

- 7) By the time of the Passover supper, after which, Jesus established His Supper, "the devil" had put into Judas' heart (**John 13:2**), or Judas chose to follow the Devil's way;
- 8) After the Lord's Supper, "Satan entered him" (**John 13:18-30, v. 26**), or Judas completely gave himself over to his evil way.

According to John's account, Judas betrayed Jesus Christ because his covetous practice of thievery grew. Jesus let Judas have "the money box" for Judas to repent. When God allows us to be tempted, He wants us to exercise our faithful convictions and become stronger (**1 Corinthians 10:13**). We may choose, however, like Judas, to exercise our choice toward evil (**James 1:13-16**). Even Jezebel in Thyatira, was given:

... Time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent (**Revelation 2:20-21**).

To protect their false doctrine of "once-saved, always-saved," people have denied that Judas was really a disciple, or an Apostle. This is a complete denial of Scripture.

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. These twelve Jesus sent out (**Matthew 10:1-5**).

This passage alone establishes:

- 1) Three times, that Judas was one of "the twelve;"
- 2) They all were endowed with spiritual "power over unclean spirits" and "all kinds of disease;"
- 3) They were all "sent out" to preach "to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (**Matthew 10:5**); and
- 4) After the events in Matthew's Gospel account had occurred, Judas clearly was identified as the one who "betrayed Him."

Why not give up the false doctrine, rather than deny the Word of God?

The case of Judas Iscariot, forevermore, should be a warning to everyone against throwing their wealth into common funds, with no regard for who is in charge of those funds! Jesus had said:

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal" (**Matthew 6:19**).

Common treasuries ("the money box") are the simplest temptation for thieves, those driven by covetousness. Jesus also said:

"Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses" (**Luke 12:15**).

Like Judas, those whose plans to help the needy always involve giving monies through their hands, are more often than not, covetous, not generous! Donations to governments, investments, retirement funds, foundations, charities, relief funds, colleges or universities, and world-wide or global organizations must be judged by:

- 1) Who, and how many, will handle this donation before it reaches those for whom it was intended;
- 2) What percentage of this donation will be used for "overhead charges, or handling fees;" and
- 3) How far from the recipient the donor remains.

When Jesus described the Samaritan who responded to an individual's needs, He said,

"A certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him" (**Luke 10:33-34**).

The **closer** we are to the person(s) to be helped, the surer we may be that we **have** helped! If we are trying to send aid to distant situations, it is best to personally know the "missionary" to whom we are entrusting our donation.

Each "first *day* of the week," Christians must "lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper" (**1 Corinthians 16:1-2**), as "the collection for the saints." Spiritually minded men should oversee that contribution, and the church is responsible for seeing that they are! Our aim should always be to:

Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal (**Matthew 6:20**).

Because there are many in "the tribe of Judas," we must constantly be aware of their motives, rather than their messages of "help the poor," "evangelize the world," and "save the planet." May their tribe die out!

-----**John T. Polk II**

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