

## Luke 22:1-6

### The King's Betrayer

Good morning church...

This morning we have a very special guest from Olive Crest here to share with us.

Olive Crest is a Foster/Adopt ministry that we support as a church.

I believe this is one of the most important ministries we as a church support.

God's Word over and over again shows that God has a special place in His own heart for the widows and the fatherless.

Even in James we see ministry to such is the purest form of religion.

**James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.**

Ministry to the innocents is God's highest priority.

So, to share about this opportunity let's **welcome up Sylvia Sanchez.**

Thank you Sylvia...

Last time we had Olive Crest here I was super excited, and I was hoping we would have some families that were on board for this adventure.

And you know, there was not one family that took interest in this opportunity.

I remember the next week in my car kind of praying and asking the Lord “why didn’t anyone want to get involved?”

I was a little indignant, but I had no desire to do it myself... of course we have four kids already, and I thought it might be irresponsible for me to get involved.

But it was during that car ride that God really spoke to me.

I was indignant that no one else was doing something that I, myself had a million excuses not to do as well.

Jess had always had it in mind to Foster to Adopt.

And the Lord confirmed to me, that He wanted us to take this step, and stop making excuses.

So we scheduled our appointment immediately with Sylvia right after that.

And Jess and I agreed to keep moving forward until the Lord closed the door.

Now, to be honest there were those voices in our lives who told us we were irresponsible, they told us how much our own kids would suffer, and we were not being fair to them.

Close friends and family have greatly disappointed us through the whole process.

But what I am learning, it is like when you go overseas on a mission's trip.

You get those naysayers, who are constantly telling you, why don't you minister to your own country, don't they need Jesus right here.

But they are that way, because when it comes down to it, they simply don't want to make the sacrifice or commit to something like that, so they cut you down for their own conscious' sake.

And usually those types are not doing much here either.

But it is unfortunate, they never get to experience the things that happen overseas or out of country, when you are stretched beyond your comfort and God just shows up in powerful ways on the mission field.

It is like that with Foster Care, the naysayers are there because they simply are not willing to make that sacrifice themselves.

Besides the naysayers in our lives, Satan has fought us every step of the way, as far as fostering children.

The week we were to take the final class to get certified, Jess and the kids were hit head on by one of Satan's Kamikaze drunk drivers, the very next day I cut my poor pinky off.

And as we were sitting in the hospital, Jess said, "We are not going to let Satan stop us, God must have a

special child for us to care for, because Satan does not want us to finish this.”

We went to class, two days later, Jess was limping had a huge gash on her arm, and my hand was all bandaged up.

But in the end, it was all worth it, all of it, even now, the sleepless nights are all worth it, the sacrifice is all worth.

As if teaching our children that this life is not about them, is a hurtful thing in raising them.

I watched our children through the whole process, from day one of our placement, I have seen that they are experiencing a higher plain in their faith.

On the way to church this morning, I asked the two oldest how they felt about it all.

Lola said, it makes me happy, Sofia chimed in and said the same thing.

Jesus clearly taught...

**Matt 16:24-27 ~~Then Jesus said to His disciples,~~ "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His**

Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

I don't think our children are going to miss anything for this sacrifice, in fact I believe you would be teaching them the highest spiritual plain.

And understand, doing the right thing is never convenient, it is rarely easy...

We had a family trip planned to go to Oregon, we had been planning this trip for years, and our kids were super excited to fly there.

And two days before take-off we got our call, and we had to cancel the trip, with plane tickets purchased.

We then had to break the news to the kids the next morning, and Sofia my oldest ran to the room in tears.

Until, Jess brought the little one in the room, and placed the baby in her arms, her tears dried up, and her older sister gears kicked in, and she said, "I don't want to do anything but hold this baby."

And listen, there is nothing easy about it, everything about this journey is an emotional rollercoaster, it is not a Hollywood movie, and there are no guaranteed happy endings.

And the child you might fall in love with might not be permanent, and your heart very well could get broken.

But as Christian's it is not about us at all, we are called give ourselves away.

And what a blessing to have loved enough to even have your heart broken, then to never love at all.

We can protect our hearts and play it safe, but we will miss the greater reward.

Jess and I have had every fear, in fact, I can be the greatest naysayer, I was worried that I would not love a child that was not my own.

But this is thing about us, we have the Spirit of God living within us, and it is His love for the fatherless that is played out through us.

**Deut. 10:17-19 For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. 18 He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing. 19 Therefore love the stranger...**

You will find another level of love, that you had no idea your heart was capable of, as God's love grows in your heart.

Listen, I know that God has been speaking to some of you about this.

For me, it was every night I threw extra food away at dinner, I thought, that could be another mouth.

We don't have a ton of rooms in our home, but I saw we could fit bunkbeds just fine and there became room for more.

If you think giving your child their own room, with all the toys they could ever demand of you is the best way to raise them and love them, you have missed the point of our Christian discipleship.

I am seeing there is a better way, and they don't mind sharing and being close to each other, they are resilient and understand the sacrifices that need to be made.

But that extra seat in my wife's car would always stick out, and there was all this extra we had in our life, until it became obvious I had no more excuses.

My biggest excuse was... Well, I don't have time, I am working 60-80 hours a week, I found a few more hours.

It can be done, believe me every excuse you have, I had, and the Lord showed me how menial they really are.

You are capable of the kind of sacrifice that is required of a believer.

Now, something wonderful Jess and I found out, is of course there are people who cannot Foster, because of age or health issues or other reasons.

However, many of you got behind us right when word got out we had our placement.

And you all became a support system for our child.

Now, our church's mission has always been to the hurting of our community.

And for those of you who the Lord is speaking to clearly that it is time to take that step of faith to Foster or even Adopt, understand our church will get behind you.

Jess and I have found a wonderful support system right here.

One man, he and his wife are near the seventy year mark, Foster Care is not even doable for them, but they were the first to bring clothes for our little guy.

Listen, some of you may not be called to be a permanent placement home, but you can certify to be that temporary home, until the permanent placement can happen.

Maybe you can certify to be a babysitter for those families that are.

This is the thing too, just get certified, that does not mean you have to take a child, but it does mean you are ready for whatever the Lord has for you.

They told us from the beginning we can say no to any phone call we get.

Please pray about your place in all of this...

There is something for all of us in this type of work...

You see, I believe if we cultivated a church environment centered upon helping the least of these in our community, God will pour out such a blessing upon us, that we would not be able to contain it.

I was indignant before, when no one else stepped up, because I thought others should be involved, the Lord really showed how foolish that was, if I was not willing to do it myself.

And since the Lord's correction in our home, since the Lord told me, "You do it, don't worry about other people," it has changed my perspective and now I simply hope others will share in this wonderful life changing opportunity.

There are so many blessings that come from helping the helpless.

And this is for any stage in your family structure, if you are just getting started with your children, or they are long gone out of the home, it is the perfect time, wherever you are at.

Listen... I'll end with some numbers, because I could go on and on about this...

There are more than 55,000 children in foster care in California, about 34 percent of whom are placed with relatives. The majority will return home to live with their family as soon as the problems that caused their entry into care are sufficiently resolved.

What if in-between, they were placed within a loving Christian home, and for the time being got to share in this church's life here, and hear the Gospel, and see Jesus through your acts of love.

This is a wide-open mission field for the most precious to our Lord.

Yes, your heart will break, but it is not about our hearts, our lives are meant to bring fruit unto our God.

Now, there are about 5,500 children who are adopted each year in our state, and about 2,000 Californian children need an adoptive family every day.

There are over 400,000 children in foster care in the U.S., 114,556 cannot be returned to their families and are waiting to be adopted. <https://adoptionnetwork.com/adoption-statistics>

This is where the church needs to step up.

You see, the church is really good at making known that we are for life, we protest Planned Parenthood with a great fervency.

Christians love to post these in your face articles about life, we love to be vocal about our beliefs, and we will even march for life.

But isn't it more Christian to live for life, we need a movement to counter the 862,320 abortions last year... A movement that is beyond picket signs...

<https://nrlc.org/uploads/factsheets/FS01AbortionintheUS.pdf>

And an adoption movement is the answer, it essence we are pleading with our culture, don't kill your child, we will take them.

Somehow the church has gotten complacent with demanding they keep their child alive, but we need to also be willing to help when life is chosen.

Ours is a faith of action, protection, a faith that costs us...

The Psalmist prayed in...

**Ps 82:3-4 Defend the poor and fatherless;**

**Do justice to the afflicted and needy.**

**4 Deliver the poor and needy;**

**Free them from the hand of the wicked.**

This is our God's burden, shouldn't we share it?

There is a great difference between a faith that is lived out on Facebook posts, and a faith that is lived out in sacrifice.

Here is an opportunity to put your faith into action.

Imagine getting to the end of all of this, your life is over, and your excuse before God the Father as to why you did not step up, is, "well God, you know how I liked to binge-watch the Bachelor on my recliner every night, I knew that kind of commitment would ruin my time."

Or something like that, "You know Lord, I would have, but I really did not want to give up playing golf on Saturdays."

All of our excuses will be menial on that day, when we are face to face with Him, and He asks us what we did with the resources that He entrusted us with in this life.

And for those of you that God is calling to open up your home as a mission field, please go see Sylvia today, and schedule your appointment, that is the first step of faith.

**Let's pray, and we will get into our text this morning.**

We will be looking at now, one of Jesus' closest disciples who never got passed a selfish religion, and because of this, he opened himself up to the devil, and his end is tragic.

Understand, a faith that is centered upon our own convenience is not true faith at all, that is the faith of Judas the Betrayer.

Let's read our text in its entirety, then we will come back through and glean all that we can from these verses.

### **The Plot to Kill Jesus**

**(Matt 26:1-5,14-16; Mark 14:1,2,10,11; John 11:45-53)**

22:1 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover. 2 And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people.

3 Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. 4 So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. 5 And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. 6 So he promised

and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude.

So remember, Jesus has just finished a powerful sermon at the Mount of Olives, it was an apocalyptic sermon, and one that stirs the believers to live in anticipation of our Coming King.

Jesus from there will go into preparation for His last meal with His disciples.

We see in verse 1...

22:1 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover.

Everyone in Israel, not just in Jerusalem were thinking about this Holiday and Feast.

It was Israel's annual birthday, celebrating the birth of a nation, and their deliverance from slavery in Egypt.

All the roads leading into the Holy City would be jammed packed, something worse than our own Cajon Pass during the Holidays.

I am sure all of you have participated in the Cajon Crawl at one time or another.

Except in Judea at this time, there would be dirt and stone roads, dust flying everywhere, animal droppings contributing to the ripe smell as the city filled to its brim.

But the people would be in high spirits, and eager to spend time in Jerusalem or elsewhere with their families.

On the day of Passover, each family would slaughter a lamb in remembrance of the Jews being spared the death angel that went through and killed all the firstborn of Egypt.

That day Pharaoh broke down and let God's people go. During Jesus' day, in Israel, there could be somewhere around 300,000 lambs killed all throughout the Promise Land.

Even in other lands, wherever Jews lived, from the fourteenth day of the first month on the Jewish calendar, the month of Nisan, all the way to the twenty first day, they would celebrate the Passover and the accompanying Feast of Unleavened Bread.

The two feasts became synonymous with each other.

Now this was a very tense time during the days of Christ.

The Romans were always on high alert, because there was no other time that the Jews thought about their independence from Rome more, than on the day they celebrated their deliverance from their former bondage.

Jerusalem was a tinder box, it would not take much to insight an insurrection with the millions of Jews coming into the city.

Every year, Rome brought in a multitude of Reinforcements and policed every corner of the city.

This is why Pontius Pilate and Herod were in Jerusalem at this time, they needed to keep the peace.

Any excitement whatsoever would be squashed right when it began.

The Jews had to behave, and that is why the secret meeting was being held about this popular Teacher from Galilee.

And we see next that the leaders of Israel are plotting to kill Jesus, the True Passover Lamb...

2 And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people.

The authorities have been determine to neutralize Jesus ever since He came in and cleansed the Temple and began to teach within the Temple Courts.

Remember we learned back in chapter 19...

Luke 19:47-48 And He was teaching daily in the temple. But the chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people sought to destroy Him, 48 and were unable to do anything; for all the people were very attentive to hear Him.

The popularity of Jesus further enraged His enemies, jealousy is such a treacherous sin.

Jesus only stoked the fire more when He spoke the Parable of the Vineyard in chapter 20, exposing their secretive inner thoughts in wanting to kill Jesus.

Jesus warned them that their rejection of Him would be costly to the Jewish Nation.

But in Luke 20:19 we see this did not detour them one bit... **Luke 20:19 And the chief priests and the scribes that very hour sought to lay hands on Him, but they feared the people — for they knew He had spoken this parable against them.**

These men had an unwavering resolve to kill Jesus, but they needed to catch a break, they needed some help, because every time they went up against the Carpenter from Nazareth they looked like fools, and Jesus only gained more and more respect from the masses of Jewish Pilgrims.

But the Feast quickly approaching only made matters worse for them, because it could only mean that Jesus would have more people to influence, they needed to hurry, but how?

And next, the real architect of evil, the first rebel in history, the enemy of our souls, will provide them with the greatest of opportunities.

Satan, who has actively opposed Jesus' ministry from the time of His birth, and he will now come into play again.

Remember it was the satanically influenced Herod who tried to kill the Christ Child in Bethlehem when He was at His weakest point, a helpless baby.

Satan was there to meet Jesus in the wilderness right after His baptism...

**Luke 4:1-2** Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 being tempted for forty days by the devil.

It seemed at every turn the enemy showed his head, in the synagogue, on the road, by the sea, in every place Jesus cast evil spirits out of suffering individuals.

Satan looked for opportune times, as we were warned back in chapter 4 after Jesus defeated His foe with the Word of God...

**Luke 4:13** Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

And next in verse 3 that patient and calculated Serpent of Old finds a weak link within Jesus' inner circle, and he sets the course for another major onslaught.

**3** Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. **4** So he went his

way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. 5 And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. 6 So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude.

In John's Gospel Jesus warned His disciples **John 6:70-71** ~~Jesus answered them,~~ "Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?" 71 He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.

Imagine Jesus knowing all along that in the end Judas would be the one, yet He still loved Him as He did the others.

In fact, no one knew any different, Jesus never treated Judas in such a way that when He warned the Twelve that anyone would suspect him, no one even considered Judas.

Judas, as far as the disciples were concerned was an exemplary disciple, after-all Jesus entrusted Judas with the money, he served as the Treasurer of the group. He had such an influence over the other Eleven that when he spoke up others followed suit.

Remember when Mary anointed Jesus at Bethany, Judas very practically, and as far as everyone in the room was concerned very spiritually had something to say.

John 12:4-6 But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, 5 "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii 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 money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

In Matthew's account we see Judas' influence, as it reads there that others were involved... **Matt 26:8-9**

**But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? 9 For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor."**

Judas sounded so wise, and pious in his stewardship over the Lord's money, yet he was selfish and a thief.

Judas was never a true follower of Jesus, his motivation was always self-preservation.

He had never allowed Jesus to cleanse him of his sins.

After Jesus washed the disciple's feet in John 13, He said... **John 13:10-11 "...and you are clean, but not all of you." 11 For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."**

Yet here in verse 3 of Luke 22, the thing that troubles me the most, is we are told, Judas, who was numbered among the Twelve, was indwelt by Satan.

That means Judas at one point even preached with the authority and power that Jesus gave them Twelve during the Galilean ministry.

Luke 9:1-2 Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. 2 He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

This shows how close a person can come to Truth and how near they can be to the Kingdom of God and still not fully enter in.

Judas had a privilege that only 11 other men on this earth and in all of history had, he got to do ministry side-by-side with God's Son.

He had the greatest witness and experience that one could hope for.

But his example shows us the depth of wickedness that the human heart is capable of...

Jesus warned in **Matt 7:21-23** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

Judas shows us how close someone can get and still miss salvation.

Perhaps Judas became a disciple of Jesus, in hopes of being delivered politically and freed nationally.

And the more he heard Jesus talk about His coming death, he became disillusioned by the spiritual aspect of Jesus' ministry.

Judas as we see decides to cash out, and he gives Jesus' enemies the opportunity they were hoping for. An insider came forward, and an agreement was made, Matthew reveals the terms... As Judas asks...

**Matt 26:15-16** "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. 16 So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

The blood money was accepted just as the prophet Zechariah foretold 500 years beforehand...

**Zech. 11:12-13** Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.

**13** And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter" — that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter.

This is a remarkably accurate prophecy of the amount of money used to betray Jesus.

**Matt 27:3-8** Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and

elders, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!"

5 Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.

6 But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood." 7 And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. 8 Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

We see the incredible accuracy here of Zechariah's prophecy spoken 5 centuries before.

Now, Judas would choose a time when the crowds were sleeping, and he had every advantage to know when Jesus would be alone and isolated.

And at a time of prayer, when Jesus is most vulnerable, Judas will lead a multitude and they will ultimately come upon the Lamb of God, like a pack of wolves.

The coconspirators were now making final preparations to kill their Messiah.

This was one of Jesus closest friends, it is interesting that David wrote a Psalm, which can be considered prophetic here.

You Wednesday night people, will remember when David's friend and great councilor, Ahithophel turned on him, and helped to start an insurrection.

David perhaps penned Psalm 41 during this time...

**Ps 41:9 Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted,  
Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.**

We also find it interesting that Ahithophel's end was prophetic of Judas' end as well.

In **2 Sam 17:23** we read that

**... he put his household in order, and hanged himself,  
and died; and he was buried in his father's tomb.**

Matthew's Gospel records that Judas too **Matt 27:5**  
**...went and hanged himself.**

Jesus in essence was speaking of His own Ahithophel when He said of Judas...

**John 13:18 "I do not speak concerning all of you. I  
know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may  
be fulfilled, 'He who eats bread with Me has lifted up  
his heel against Me.'**

We also see Jesus' heartbreak over all of this... And the disciple's confusion, not one of them suspected Judas...

**John 13:21-22 When Jesus had said these things, He  
was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most  
assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." 22**

Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke.

Jesus' anguish was recognizable here over all of this.

This was all taking place around the Passover Table, Judas was only a few inches away from Jesus.

Perhaps as Jesus said all of this, Judas' heart skipped a beat in fear that he might be exposed.

It is interesting to point out, that Jesus now ever close to the cross, we see His Spirit troubled, but not for His own life, but He was concerned about another, and not just for anyone but the one who delivered Him over to His enemies.

The disciples are as clueless as ever Matthew records **Matt 26:22 And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, "Lord, is it I?"**

We see from there Jesus answered and said....

**Matt 26:23-25 ~~He answered and said,~~ "He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me. 24 The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born."**

Judas at this point is playing it cool, under the pressure of overwhelming guilt.

**25 Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "Rabbi, is it I?"**

He said to him, "You have said it."

And even after this not one person had the slightest idea that it was Judas.

Now, I want to point out one last thing here about this night, and the positioning of the disciples, showing that Judas had every opportunity to repent, and make things right.

John 13:23-26 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. 24 Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke.

25 Then, leaning back on Jesus' breast, he said to Him, "Lord, who is it?" 26 Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.

John the Beloved was sitting to the right of Jesus, his head would lean back and talk with the Master leaning on His chest.

But Jesus positioned Judas at His left, which would be the place of honor at the eastern triclinium table, Jesus would lean His head upon Judas' chest, they shared bread with one another, it was a special ordeal in the near east, to sop bread with each other.

Remember in Ruth, this was the signal that love between Ruth and Boaz had sparked...

They had a common bowl, and they would offer the bread to one another as a gesture of honor and friendship.

Jesus as He dipped the bread and gave it to Judas offering Judas His friendship, in essence telling him it is not too late.

But Judas rejected and this allowed Satan to have full control...

**John 13:27** Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."

Satan most definitely had a hand in this, but Judas is not excused here.

Judas, One of the Twelve, saw the overwhelming witness of Jesus' ministry, he saw personally the power that Christ operated with, the compassion that He showed, and the way He included the lost and the outcast.

He had a remarkable view of the miracles and heard every sermon preached.

He was part of the company that heard the Words of Christ... **Matt 13:16-17** But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; 17 for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

And after all of this... He still decided to deliver this unsurpassably powerful, wise, and compassionate Benefactor into the hands of cruel men. Hendrickson

What a tragic story, what went wrong with Judas?

Understand Jesus will tell Peter in the weeks ahead...

Luke 22:31-32 "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

Why was Satan able to overcome one but not the other?

Well, Judas was guilty because he failed to resist the devil...

Judas allowed his selfish ambitions and money to blind him perilously.

Peter learned through his ordeal, and wrote 1 Peter 5:8-11 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. 10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. 11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

You see Peter learn to resist Satan's sifting, and was able to turn back to His Lord.

A wonderful depiction of Peter's reinstatement into the ministry is found in John 21.

Judas on the other hand, had his opportunity there at the Table with Christ, and he hardened his heart, and Satan's influence overcame him.

Listen Judas stands as an example and sounds a warning against the convenient religion our day, and this selfish ideology.

Many today try to bend their religion around their own beliefs and their comforts, that is not the Biblical view of True Religion.

True religion bends to the will of our God.

It is interesting, and I will close with this... Jesus gave a teaching right after Judas left the room, a teaching that He lived out Himself before even He taught it.

**John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."**

As Christians we are not called to a passive religion, but a very active religion, the type of Love that we are to show others, is the Love Christ modeled for us.

Remember we are too love, even to our own enemies... to do good to those who persecute us.

We are a doing religion, we do the will of our God.

It is a dangerous thing to be comfortable around religious settings, to be near to Jesus, to even hear the Words of Jesus, and to never press into the fullness of what Jesus offers you.

He has called you to a life of sacrifice, He has called you to respond in Love to our culture, a Love that is not convenient at all, but giving of ourselves.

You know, when you endeavor to serve our Lord in this way, it is not easy, it goes against everything that is natural for us, and there is a constant enemy working against us, trying to influence us, trying to come against us.

Resist him and he will flee.

We are called to serve our God and His purposes, not our own will.

**James 4:7-10 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.**

Understand God has not saved us to serve ourselves, He saved us to serve Him.

Only you can assess your life and see if you are doing so sacrificially or conveniently, it is convenient religion that is Judas' religion.

If your heart is not moved by the great needs around us, and by the Love God called us to live out, then you might be in troubled waters.

We live in perilous times, and there are so many opportunities and needs that we are called to meet.

How can we even talk about sacrifice, what sacrifice can we even possibly make in this life, that even compares to the sacrifice Christ made for us to have eternal life.

There is nothing we can do to repay that!

We can only serve Him, and hope that our lives bring Him Glory.

We are to live to produce fruit unto Him, it is never about us....

Amen...

Let's pray...