

Th131 God's Plan

Lesson Th131-33 The Betrayal

The Bible talks about the little fox that can spoil a whole vineyard of blooming grapevines. Sometimes a tiny compromise, a little white lie, or some other small sin can become the big thing that destroys a life. Today's lesson tells how this happened to one person. In our last lesson we learned that one of the 12 disciples Jesus chose was a man named Judas Iscariot. Judas was the treasurer for the disciples and kept the money bag. Although he was with Jesus every day, he could not overcome his weakness. He loved money above all other things and this led to his stealing from the disciples' money bag.

Satan had to find a way to defeat Jesus. Things were getting out of control. The disciples were now preaching, healing the sick, and even casting out the demonic fallen angels who had possessed people. In Judas, Satan found his tool to get to Jesus. The Bible says that Satan entered into Judas and prompted him to go to the Jewish priests to betray Jesus. The priests were very jealous of Jesus. They enjoyed their positions within society and did not like that crowds of people followed Jesus wherever He went. They greatly feared the changes that He might bring. So when Judas, possessed by Satan, came to them offering to betray Jesus, they readily agreed. Now they knew that they could not arrest Jesus in public. They feared that the people would become a riotous mob, so they instructed Judas to find a way to betray Jesus to them in such a way that they could arrest Him in a private place. Judas agreed (Luke 22:3-6).

It was the time of the Jewish festival of Passover and Jesus was determined to observe the Passover in Jerusalem. "Where do you want us to prepare for Passover?" the disciples asked Jesus.

"Go to the city and speak to a certain man. Tell him that the master would like to celebrate the Passover in his home," Jesus answered. Peter and John followed Jesus' instructions and later that evening they all gathered to partake of the Passover together. This would be Jesus' last meal with His disciples. They were all reclining on the couches and eating when Jesus said, "One of you will betray me."

Suddenly the room became deathly quiet. Then they all began to talk at once. Judas turned to Jesus and pretended innocence. "Surely you don't mean me?" Judas asked.

"You have said it yourself," Jesus answered. A short time later he whispered to Judas, "Go Judas. What you are going to do, do it quickly." And with that Judas, possessed by Satan, left the Last Supper and went to find the priests. This was noticed by the disciples, but they thought that since Judas kept the money bag, Jesus was just sending him on an assignment such as giving money to someone in need.

After Judas left, Jesus took the Passover bread, broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then He took a cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them as He said, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is

poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom" (Matt 26:26-29).

The disciples did not know how to respond. "What was Jesus trying to tell them?" They wondered. Jesus then led them in a praise song. Afterwards they all got up and went out to the garden to pray. Meanwhile, Judas and Satan had met with the priests and gathered a mob comprised of temple guards and thugs with torches and clubs. Judas knew where Jesus would be. The Garden of Gethsemane was a private and quiet place perfect for praying. It was also the perfect place to capture Jesus out of the public's view. One could imagine how excited Judas was. He was about to earn 30 pieces of silver, which was more than four months' wages; all for one evening's work.

Satan must have been excited as well. He was about to use his most powerful weapon against mankind. He would lock Jesus in the prison of death. Satan had feared this conflict for thousands of years. He had deceived Adam and Eve and God had announced that one day a descendent of Eve would destroy his power and authority. Jesus had been the only person in all of human history that Satan had not been able to corrupt or defeat. But now he was about to win!

Judas and the mob made their way into the Garden. There the other 11 disciples were scattered around; a few were on their knees praying. Most had fallen asleep. It had been a long day and the food and wine they had consumed at dinner made it very difficult to stay awake. The guards and mob stood waiting for Judas to point out to them who Jesus was. Judas quickly looked about. The Garden was dark and dimly illuminated by the flickering light of the torches. The disciples looked up in confusion. But one man slowly stood to His feet and walked towards them. Judas recognized Jesus at once and quickly walked up to Him. In the greatest act of betrayal in history Judas, possessed by Satan, gave Jesus a kiss on the cheek in greeting. "Rabbi!" said Judas, loud enough for those following him to hear. Suddenly the mob surrounded Jesus and after tying His hands, dragged Him off to the High Priest and the Jewish Council. All of the disciples fled in fear, leaving Jesus to His fate.

Satan was elated. His plan had worked flawlessly. In just a handful of hours Jesus would be dead and his victory complete.

This lesson is **important** because it shows the downward spiral of Judas, from being a person who was called by Jesus to a person who betrayed Jesus for money.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that when we allow any sin into our lives, it will be used by Satan and his demons to eventually destroy us.

Let's **review** what you learned in this lesson.

1. Why were the Jewish priests afraid to arrest Jesus publicly? [Pause 5 seconds]
 - A. If you said they feared a riot, you are correct.

2. How many pieces of silver did Judas receive in payment for betraying Jesus? [Pause]
A. If you said Judas received 30 pieces of silver, then you answered correctly.
3. Who had possessed Judas and led him in his betrayal of Jesus? [Pause 5 seconds]
A. If you said that Satan had possessed Judas, then you are correct.

Your **assignment** is to watch this lesson and the previous lesson at least three times. It is important that you understand how the two lessons fit together to tell one story. After you have mastered these two stories, find someone and teach them that as children of God, we need not fear Satan's power. But if we open our hearts to evil, the way Judas did, we too can allow Satan to begin to influence us. If a person continues to choose evil instead of calling on God for help, he is headed toward destruction. Share with a friend the good news that the Holy Spirit, who lives in those who accept Jesus, is greater than Satan or his demons.