

10-2018

## A Biographical Study of Judas Iscariot

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### Recommended Citation

Willmington, Harold, "A Biographical Study of Judas Iscariot" (2018). *New Testament Biographies*. 26. [https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/nt\\_biographies/26](https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/nt_biographies/26)

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# *Judas Iscariot*

## CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. Judas, the apostle
  - A. His call (Matt. 10:4; Mark 3:19; Luke 6:16)
  - B. His city—The word *Iscariot* literally means “the man from Kerioth.” Kerioth was a town in southern Judea. Thus Judas was the only non-Galilean among the 12 apostles.
- II. Judas, the apostate
  - A. The defection of Judas
    1. He was a thief (John 12:1-8)
      - a. The circumstances involved—“Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment” (John 12:3).
      - b. The criticism involved—“Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?” (John 12:4-5).
      - c. The callousness involved—“This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein” (John 12:6).
    2. He was a traitor—No less than 16 times does the New Testament speak of Judas’s sin in betraying Christ (Matt. 10:4; 26:16, 25; Mark 3:19; 14:10-11; Luke 6:16; 22:4, 6; John 6:71; 12:4; 18:2, 5; Acts 1:16, 18, 25).
      - a. The person behind Judas’s crime
        - (1) Satan had controlled him from the very beginning—“Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve” (John 6:70-71).
        - (2) Satan was his spiritual father—Jesus referred to Judas as “the son of perdition” (John 17:12).
        - (3) Satan put the desire in Judas’s heart to betray Christ (John 13:2).
        - (4) Satan actually entered into Judas on two occasions:
          - (a) First occasion: Just prior to the upper room events—“Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve” (Luke 22:3).
          - (b) Second occasion: In the upper room—“And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly” (John 13:27).
      - b. The price received for Judas’s crime—“Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for

thirty pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him" (Matt. 26:14-16).

c. The prophecies concerning Judas's crime

(1) Foretold by the Psalms—Just prior to Pentecost, in the upper room, Peter reminded the 120 of these predictions, referring to three Old Testament psalms. "Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry" (Acts 1:16-17).

See Psalm 41:9. "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" (Acts 1:20). See Psalms 69:25 and 109:8.

(2) Foretold by the Savior—"When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. . . . He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it? Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly. Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him. 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. He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night" (John 13:21, 25-30).

d. The place of Judas's crime—"When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples. And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples. Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons" (John 18:1-3). "Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him. And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus and took him" (Matt. 26:48-50).

A. The death of Judas

1. The penitence of the traitor

a. The misery before his death—"Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned

- in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that" (Matt. 27:3-4).
- b. The method of his death—"And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself" (Matt. 27:5). "Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out" (Acts 1:18).
  2. The problem of the chief priests—"And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day" (Matt. 27:7-8).
  3. The prediction of the prophet—"Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value; And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me" (Matt. 27:9-10).

## **STATISTICS**

*First mention:* Matthew 10:4

*Final mention:* Acts 1:25

*Meaning of his name:* "Praise"

*Frequency of his name:* Referred to 22 times

*Biblical books mentioning him:* Five books (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts)

*Occupation:* Apostle

*Place of birth:* Probably in the Judean city of Keriath

*Place of death:* In or near Jerusalem

*Circumstances of death:* He hanged himself (Matt. 27:5; Acts 1:18).

*Important fact about his life:* He was the apostle who betrayed Christ.