

Apostles

Judas Iscariot

Note from Kathy

It has been said that, "Sin will take you farther than you want to go—keep you longer than you want to stay—and cost you more than you want to pay." It is often a slow process that creeps up until we are stuck in the bondage of that sin. Every decision we make takes us closer to our heavenly Father or farther away. We would do well to follow the admonition of Ephesians 5:15, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise."



Observation

Use the Bible verses provided at the end of this chapter to answer the questions below.

1. Judas Iscariot is the last disciple we have to study. It would be hard to find someone who has not heard about this man and his wicked betrayal. In John 12:4-6, what do you see that gives you a bit of insight into the kind of man Judas was?

What did he say should have been done with this oil?

Why did he say this?

What was the true love of Judas' life?

What are some words that might describe his character in this event?
2. Luke 22:3 tells us exactly what happened to Judas that enabled him to continue on with his betrayal. What had happened to him?
3. Matthew 26:3-16 tells the story. Who were the ones involved in this murderous plot?
4. After the Passover meal and a brief time of prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, Luke 22:47-48 describes for us the scene at Jesus' arrest. While Jesus was speaking to his remaining eleven disciples what happened?

5. There is one final scene written about Judas Iscariot. Read Matthew 27:3-5. List the events that took place.

6. Even though Jesus knew Judas would betray him, he still chose him to be a part of his inner circle. Why?

7. Define the words below noting the difference between them.
regret
remorse
repentance

8. Let's look up a story from the *Old Testament*. King David had sinned. He had lusted with his eyes, stole another man's wife and then tried to cover up his sin by having her husband killed. Nathan the prophet came to him and told him a story that spoke to the heart of this shepherd king. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-15. When confronted with the truth about his sin what was David's response?

Did he continue to attempt to cover it up?

Did he try to explain? Who did he say he had sinned against?
9. What painful consequences had King David's sin set into motion?

10. King David's sin did bring consequences, but after he repented, God continued to use him in a mighty way. Read 2 Samuel 12:24-25. What blessing did God give King David?

11. One final thought. Read 1 Kings 3:5-14 to see what became of the child born to King David and Bathsheba. How was King David described by God in this passage?

12. It is God alone who removes our transgressions and forgives our sin. Read Isaiah 43:25 and Hebrews 10:14-18. What do you see concerning forgiveness of sins in these verses?

Application

1. The story of Judas Iscariot's life is very sad. He walked, talked, ate and drank with Jesus for years, and yet, he never really knew him. That is true for many people though. They get very close to Jesus but never understand the great love he has to offer. We must ask ourselves if we are doing all we can while there is time to share Jesus with those around us? If so, we need not fret. We are like a farmer who takes his good seed (the gospel) and plants it in the soil (the hearts of those who come in contact with each day). We can water it and try to eliminate as many weeds as possible, so it will have every opportunity to grow. But it is God who gives the increase. How are you sharing the good news with others?

2. The Bible tells us Judas was seized with remorse and tried to return the money. He did not care what would happen to Jesus until it was too late. Instead of crying out to God for forgiveness, since it was the Son of God he had betrayed, he chose to hang himself. Sadly, there is no forgiveness available without true repentance. One may feel remorse for the consequences of their sin and the pain it caused, but that doesn't necessarily equate with repentance. What is the difference?

3. Read 2 Corinthians 7:9-10 and Matthew 3:2, 8. The call to repentance is more than a mere change of mind or remorse after the fact. What else is involved in true repentance?

4. So much is made today of why someone did what they did, when we should be focusing on helping them come to repentance. Much time and energy is often wasted trying to figure out how a person got in the condition they find themselves. We cannot change the past. What they really need is for us to point them to the foot of the cross. What will they find there?

5. In the Observation section we looked at 2 Samuel 12, the story of King David's sin. As so often happens, David was not the only one who suffered because he chose to sin. We cannot possibly imagine the ripples of pain our sin will send out. Have you ever sinned in such a way that others around you suffered because of a choice you made?

What did you do about it?

6. Even though David sinned and the consequences of that sin were painful, God was not finished with him. God used him in a mighty way. Out of this union between King David and Bathsheba came a second son Solomon. He became the wisest king to rule Israel. God brought beauty out of the ashes. Have you experienced anything like this?

Has God given you a heart for those who are suffering in the sin that held you captive in the past?

Describe how your family trajectory has been altered in such a way that you are now leading them into a closer walk with Jesus?

Bible Verses for Reference

John 12:4-6 - But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵“Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.” ⁶He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

Luke 22:3 - Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve.

Matthew 26:3-16 - Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, ⁴and they schemed to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. ⁵“But not during the festival,” they said, “or there may be a riot among the people.” ⁶While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, ⁷a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. ⁸When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. ⁹“This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.” ¹⁰Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ¹¹The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. ¹²When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. ¹³Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.” ¹⁴Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests ¹⁵and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

Luke 22:47-48 - While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

Matthew 27:3-5 - When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. ⁴“I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.” “What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.” ⁵So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

2 Samuel 12:1-15 - The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. ²The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, ³but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. ⁴“Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.” ⁵David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die! ⁶He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.” ⁷Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. ⁹Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’ ¹¹“This is what the LORD says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. ¹²You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’ ” ¹³Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” Nathan replied, “The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. ¹⁴But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the LORD, the son born to you will die.” ¹⁵After Nathan had gone home, the LORD struck the child that Uriah’s wife had borne to David, and he became ill.

2 Samuel 12:24-25 - Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and made love to her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The LORD loved him; ²⁵and because the LORD loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.

1 Kings 3:5-14 - "Now you yourself know what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me—what he did to the two commanders of Israel's armies, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether. He killed them, shedding their blood in peacetime as if in battle, and with that blood he stained the belt around his waist and the sandals on his feet. ⁶Deal with him according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to the grave in peace. ⁷"But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai of Gilead and let them be among those who eat at your table. They stood by me when I fled from your brother Absalom. ⁸"And remember, you have with you Shimei son of Gera, the Benjamite from Bahurim, who called down bitter curses on me the day I went to Mahanaim. When he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the LORD: 'I will not put you to death by the sword.' ⁹But now, do not consider him innocent. You are a man of wisdom; you will know what to do to him. Bring his gray head down to the grave in blood." ¹⁰Then David rested with his ancestors and was buried in the City of David. ¹¹He had reigned forty years over Israel—seven years in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem. ¹²So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David, and his rule was firmly established. ¹³Now Adonijah, the son of Haggith, went to Bathsheba, Solomon's mother. Bathsheba asked him, "Do you come peacefully?" He answered, "Yes, peacefully." ¹⁴Then he added, "I have something to say to you." "You may say it," she replied.

Isaiah 43:25 - "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.

Hebrews 10:14-18 - For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. ¹⁵The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: ¹⁶"This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." ¹⁷Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." ¹⁸And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

2 Corinthians 7:9-10 - yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. ¹⁰Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

Matthew 3:2 - and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Matthew 3:8 - Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.