

A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- As we begin Ch. 26 we find some interesting contrasts.
- 1st While the “religious” Jewish leaders were plotting to kill Christ, the believers at Bethany were honoring Him!
- 2nd Mary’s act of love was accepted by Christ
- And criticized by the disciples, Judas being the chief accuser.

- John explains why Judas criticized her:
- He was a thief and wanted the money for himself!
John 12:6 .
- It is sad to see Peter agreeing with Judas and
 - walking “in the counsel of the ungodly”
(Psa_1:1).
 - Soon to be “standing in the way of sinners”
(John18:18)
 - And then “sitting in the seat of the scornful”
(Luk_22:55),
 - Finally, denying his Lord three times.

- It is a dangerous thing for Christians to judge one another.
 - Matthew 7:1-5
 - Why do you see the speck in your brother's eye but fail to notice the beam in your own eye?

- Judas called Mary's worship "waste," but Jesus said it was a lasting memorial!
- To this day, wherever the Gospel is preached, Mary and her loving deed are mentioned.

- Did this stinging rebuke from Christ made Judas all the more anxious to betray Him.
- Leaving Bethany Judas now plots with the Jewish leaders to arrest Christ.
- They agreed for thirty pieces of silver, as the Scriptures promised (Zechariah 11:12).

- Peter, on the other hand,
went with John
to prepare the
Passover feast for Christ
(Luke 22:8).
- With all of his failings,
Peter loved Christ
and trusted Him,
- While Judas went out from them,
because he was not of them
(1John 2:18-19).

- **Matthew 26:14**

Then one of the twelve,
called **Judas Iscariot**,
went unto the chief priests,

- **26:15** 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**.

- **26:16** And from that time he sought **opportunity** to betray him.⁸

- ♦ We find Judas both fascinating and frightening.

- ♦ Fascinating
because
we don't understand him

- ♦ And frightening
because
we have a tendency
to be like him.

- Three people stand out in the account of the last hours of the Lord before Calvary:

- Christ,
- Peter,
- Judas Iscariot.

- It is interesting to see how Peter and Judas are contrasted in this chapter,
- Each one teaching us spiritual lessons by his failures.

- Judas is
a warning against:
- Resisting the Word of God
 - And rejecting Christ;
 - Peter is an illustration
of how a believer
may backslide.

- We're not so sure we want to crack that book open.
- Nevertheless, here we are ---
 - Ready to take a closer look at the disciple named Judas.

- ♦ Here's what we know based on our text from Matthew:
 - ♦ We know Judas sought out the chief priests,
 - ♦ And asked them how much he could get to betray Jesus.
 - ♦ We know they agreed on thirty pieces of silver to do the deed.

- We know that at the Last Supper Jesus knew Judas was to betray him

- But still included him in the supper
 - In the breaking of bread
 - And the cup of the covenant
 - “poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

- May I suggest four reasons why Judas betrayed Jesus.
 - # 1 It may have been because of greed.
- John tells us that Judas was a thief.
(John 12:6).
 - Being a “lover of money” he struck one of the most dreadful bargains in history.

- 2nd It may have been because of bitter hatred, based on complete disillusionment.
- It may be that Judas looked on Jesus as the divinely sent leader, who, with his miraculous powers, could lead the great rebellion against Rome.
- Judas may have hated Jesus because he was not the Christ
he wished him to be.

- # 3 It may be that Judas never intended Jesus to die.
- He may have betrayed Jesus with the intention of compelling him to act.
- To become the great leader that Judas and all the apostles expected Him to be.

- The tragedy of Judas is that he refused to accept Jesus as he was.
- He tried to make Jesus what he wanted him to be.
- It is not Jesus who can be changed by us,
- But it is us who must be changed by Jesus.

- # 4 Another theory holds that it was Satan working through Judas, that Judas didn't really have any say in the act.
- This theory has an interesting counterpart that suggests what Judas did, although wrong, was actually the will of God,
 - And therefore Judas didn't have a choice.

- Why might people like the theory that “*the devil made Judas do it*”?

- People like to shoulder the responsibility to someone else.

- Adam did it and it continues till this day.

- Have you ever done it?

- If we accept that theory then we destroy “free-will”.

- I think it is safe to say that the most likely reason Judas did what he did was either:
 - (a) He was a simple thief who saw a chance to make some money;
 - (b) Or he thought he knew better than God.

- The sin of thinking one knows better than God, has been with us from the beginning.
- It's what got Adam and Eve in trouble.

- Many preachers and church leaders are doing that even today.
- Pervverting the word of God.
 - Organizing the church their way.
 - Etc.

- Many today have like Judas misunderstood the Messiah.
- Building their work on their ideas and not the word of God.

- Judas may have wanted a military Messiah, which was the common view.
- By having Jesus arrested, Judas may have thought he could jump start the revolution.
- Sounded great to Judas.

- **Jeremiah 10:23**

**O LORD, I know that
the way of man
is not in himself:**

**it is not in man that walks
to direct his steps.**

- How **often** have we seen that
in the Bible.
- How often have we seen that
in our own lives?

- **The irony is that**
through the
death and resurrection of
Jesus, God's kingdom and
rule on earth is established.
- **But the enemy defeated**
is not the Roman Empire
but **sin** and **death**.

- 1Cor 15:56

The sting of death is sin;

- 1Cor 15:55

O death, where is thy sting?
O grave, where is thy victory?

- 1Cor 15:57

But thanks be to God,
which gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- **What** led Judas to betray his Lord and Savior?
- **How** could one who had been with Jesus...
 - Seen His **miracles**
 - Heard His **teachings.**

- What about us?
- Could we be guilty
of betraying Jesus
in some way?
- Are there things
that misled Judas
that could have
a similar effect on us?

- Judas was no stranger to Jesus.
 - He was one of the apostles
(Matthew 10:2-4)
 - He was among those
whom Jesus loved
(John 13:1)
 - Yet as prophesied,
Jesus was betrayed by
"a familiar friend"
(Psalms 41:9)

- Just being His disciples
is no assurance
we will not betray Him
 - Like several
of the churches
in Asia Minor,
we could...

- Leave our first love
(Rev 2:4-5)
- Begin to tolerate false doctrine
(Rev 2:14-16)
- Permit false teachers
to spread their doctrines
(Rev 2:20)
- Become lukewarm
(Rev 3:15-16)

- Therefore we need to heed Jesus' admonition to be **"faithful unto death"** (Rev 2:10),
 - And not assume **that close proximity** to Jesus in the past guarantees faithfulness in the future.

- ***The deceitfulness of riches***
can render us unfruitful.
(Matthew 13:22)
 - Thus leading us
to stray from the faith
and drown in
destruction and ***perdition***.
(1 Timothy 6:9-10)

- Why did Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss...

- Luke 22:48

Jesus said to him,
"Judas, do you intend
to betray the Son of Man
with a kiss?"

- The sign of friendship and affection employed in a base and wicked purpose.

- Displays of affection
don't ensure faithfulness.
- Many people are
very emotional
in their worship.
- Believing it to be evidence
of being "*Spirit-filled*"
 - Yet emotions alone
are not a reliable guide

- Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful

above all things,
and desperately wicked:
who can know it?

- Proverbs 16:25

There is a way
that seems right unto a man,
but the end thereof are
the ways of death.

- Jeremiah 10:23

O LORD, I know that the way of man
is not in himself:
it is not in man to direct his steps.

- The Spirit does produce fruit in our lives that affects our emotions.

- Galatians 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,
peace, longsuffering, gentleness,
goodness, faith,

- 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against
such there is no law.

- But we must keep them
in the proper order:

- Our emotions must come from faith,
not faith coming from emotions
 - Otherwise we are led by
emotionalism,
not faith.
 - And true faith comes from the
Word of God.
 - **Romans 10:17**
- So then faith comes by hearing, and
hearing by the word of God.**

- We can be guilty of thinking our service is acceptable, when it is not.
 - Matthew 7:21
 - Not every one
- that says unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;
- but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven.

- We can't know God's directions
unless He reveals them.

- Isaiah 55:8

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways,"
declares the LORD.

- Ecclesiastes 5:1

Watch your step whenever you visit
God's house,

- and come more ready to listen
than to offer a fool's sacrifice,
- since fools never think they're doing evil.

- While Jesus was betrayed by Judas,
let's not forget
the influence of Satan...
- Satan used Judas to betray Jesus.

- Luke 22:3

Then Satan entered
the heart of Judas Iscariot,
who was one of the twelve apostles.

- John 6:70

Jesus replied, "I chose all twelve of you.
Yet, one of you is a devil."

- How did Satan influence Judas?
 - By some of the very things we may be influenced by.
- Through his love of money
- Through his emotionalism
- Through his mistaken ideas

- Even Peter was influenced by Satan through some of these very things (Matthew 16:23)
 - And while we may despise the treachery of Judas,
 - We can learn from his mistakes.
 - We can also learn from Peter who chose a different route.

- 1 Peter 5:8

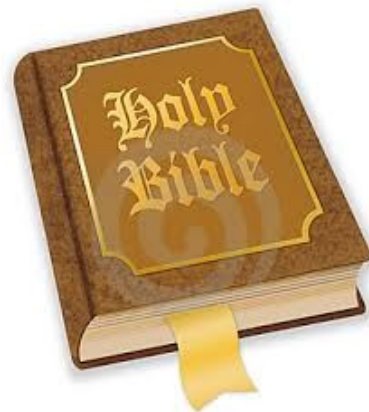
**Be clear-minded
and alert.**

- **Your opponent, the devil,
is prowling around like a
roaring lion, looking for
someone to devour.**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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