

GOD'S CALLING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Lesson Seven

IN THE GOSPELS: Judas Iscariot - The False Disciple

Burden to Impart:

The Lord allows all kinds of persons to follow Him, even some false ones. The weaknesses of the Lord's disciples did not prevent them from following Him faithfully. He was able to work in the lives and hearts of each one of them, except Judas. Judas' problem was not weakness, it was falsehood and hypocrisy. Although he was so close to Jesus, He never called Him "Lord," only "rabbi."

Memory Verse: "Search me, O God, and know my heart: Try me. . .and see if there be any wicked way in me. . ." (Psalm 139: 23—24).

Facts to Teach:

1. None of the twelve apostles that the Lord called were "perfect." Peter was too outspoken. Thomas lacked faith. He even disbelieved the Lord's resurrection! James and John were so "fiery" and impetuous that the Lord called them the "sons of thunder." There are no perfect disciples for the Lord calls us as we are. Yet, as we follow Him, we gradually become like Him.
2. Of the twelve Apostles that the Lord chose, all were faithful to the Lord except one, Judas Iscariot. To have weaknesses is one thing, to be a false disciple is another. Although the Lord knew that Judas was a "devil" (John 6:70-71) who would one day betray Him, He purposely chose Judas to be with Him. Having been so close to the Lord Jesus, Judas surely no excuse for rejecting Him. It was his own choice.
3. Judas was trusted to take care of the disciples' money box, but he yielded to Satan and became a thief (John 12:6).
4. One day, while one of the Lord's disciples poured her greatest treasure upon Him (a flask of precious ointment), Judas rebuked her and exclaimed, "Why this waste? Why was this ointment not sold...and given to the poor?" (Matt. 26:8; John 12:5-6). He did not say this because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief and wanted to steal the money. He did not love the Lord Jesus. He was a false disciple, a pretender, and a hypocrite.
5. Just before the Lord's death, Judas let Satan into his heart and then made a deal with the pries betray Jesus and deliver Him up to them for thirty pieces of silver (Matt. 26:15-16; Luke 22:3). When at the last supper, the Lord told His disciples that one of them would betray Him (He did not say which one), they all fearfully asked, "I'm not the one, am I, Lord?" Judas pretentiously said, "I'm not the one, am I, Rabbi?" He knew he was, but he pretended he was not. Judas never called Jesus "Lord," only "Rabbi," or teacher.
6. Judas finally delivered up Jesus with a false kiss (Luke 22:48). Though he later regretted, he did not turn his heart to the Lord or ask for forgiveness. Rather, he hanged himself (Matt. 27:5)