

The Men the King Chose, Part VII

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The King and His Glory / Jesus; Apostle

In Matthew 10:2-4, Matthew deliberately names the twelve men upon whom Christ chose to build His church and advance His Kingdom:

Pre-sermon Comments

Sermon Text

Matthew 10:2-4 LSB

² Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Him.

Introduction to our Text

1 Timothy 6:10 LSB

¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evils, and some by aspiring to it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

James 5:3 LSB

³ Your gold and your silver have rusted, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. You have stored up *such* treasure in the last days!

John 17:12 LSB

¹² “While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.”

Proposition and Outline

In [Matthew 10:4](#), we find Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Jesus and is a picture of the tragedy of false faith. He stands as Scripture’s clearest warning that proximity to Christ is not the same as genuine faith.

- **Judas’s Hidden Corruption**
- **Judas’s Hardened Rejection**
- **Judas’s Heinous Betrayal**
- **Judas’s Horrifying Destruction**

Review

Matthew 9:35 LSB

³⁵ And Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

Matthew 9:36 LSB

³⁶ And seeing the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:37 LSB

³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

Matthew 9:38 LSB

³⁸ “Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.”

Matthew 10:1 LSB

¹ And summoning His twelve disciples, *Jesus* gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

Discussion Questions

The sermon begins by noting that many people who once professed faith have fallen away in recent years. What are some reasons people who appear to follow Christ may later abandon the faith?

The sermon states that “**physical proximity to Christ or His church is not the same as genuine faith.**” What are some ways someone might appear close to Christ outwardly while still lacking true saving faith?

Judas spent three years with Jesus, heard His teaching, and even participated in ministry. What does Judas’s life teach us about the difference between **religious activity** and **true conversion**?

The Pompeii illustration shows a woman delaying escape because she loved her possessions. What are some modern “treasures” that can keep people from truly following Christ?

Read [1 Timothy 6:10](#). How can the love of money or worldly success subtly influence the heart of a professing Christian?

The sermon describes a **progression of false faith** in Judas’s life. Why is it important for Christians to examine their hearts regularly rather than assuming their faith is genuine?

Judas outwardly preached, healed, and even sat at the Lord’s table, yet he betrayed Christ. What warning should this give to believers who are actively involved in church ministry?

What are some **evidences of genuine faith** that distinguish a true follower of Christ from someone who only appears religious?

Judas's Hidden Corruption

His Personality and Ambitions

John 6:66 LSB

⁶⁶ As a result of this many of His disciples went away and were not walking with Him anymore.

His Ulterior Motives

John 12:3 LSB

³ Mary then took a litre of perfume of very costly pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

John 12:4–5 LSB

⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was going to betray Him, said, ⁵ “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?”

John 12:6 LSB

⁶ Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to take from what was put into it.

The sell-out by Judas would reveal that association with the godly—even with Christ, who knew no sin—is possible, without regeneration being a fact of experience. One can be in Christ's service and yet not have Him in the heart as Savior and Lord. Judas lacked the essential. He was destitute of faith and love.
~ Herbert Lockyer

James 1:8 LSB

⁸ *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Matthew 7:22–23 LSB

²² “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, in Your name did we not prophesy, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name do many

miracles?’²³ “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’

A perfect traitor should have a face on which vice can write no marks, lips which will lie with a dimpled smile, eyes of such agate-like brightness and depth that no infamy can dull them, cheeks that can rise from a murder and not look haggard. ~ George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans)

2 Corinthians 13:5 LSB

⁵ Test yourselves *to* see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize about yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

Psalms 139:24 LSB

²⁴ And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

Judas’s Hardened Rejection

The same sun that melts the wax hardens the clay. ~ Charles Spurgeon

The Example of Pharaoh

Exodus 7:13–14 LSB

¹³ Yet Pharaoh’s heart was hardened with strength, and he did not listen to them, as Yahweh had spoken. ¹⁴ Then Yahweh said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is hard with firmness; he refuses to let the people go.

Exodus 7:22 LSB

²² Yet the magicians of Egypt did the same with their secret arts; and Pharaoh’s heart was hardened with strength, and he did not listen to them, as Yahweh had spoken.

Exodus 8:15 LSB

¹⁵ Then Pharaoh saw that there was relief, and he hardened his heart with firmness and did not listen to them, as Yahweh had spoken.

Exodus 8:19 LSB

¹⁹ And the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened with strength, and he did not listen to them, as Yahweh had spoken.

Exodus 8:32 LSB

³² Then Pharaoh hardened his heart with firmness this time also, and he did not let the people go.

Exodus 9:7 LSB

⁷ And Pharaoh sent, and behold, there was not even one of the livestock of Israel dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened with firmness, and he did not let the people go.

Exodus 9:34–35 LSB

³⁴ But Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased. So he sinned again and hardened his heart with firmness, he and his servants. ³⁵ And Pharaoh’s heart was hardened with strength, and he did not let the sons of Israel go, just as Yahweh had spoken by the hand of Moses.

Exodus 13:15 LSB

¹⁵ ‘And it happened, when Pharaoh hardened *his heart* with stiffness about letting us go, that Yahweh killed every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore, I sacrifice to Yahweh the males, the first offspring of every womb, but every firstborn of my sons I redeem.’

Exodus 4:21 LSB

²¹ And Yahweh said to Moses, “When you go to return to Egypt, see *to it* that all the miraculous wonders which I have put in your hand, that you do them before Pharaoh; but as for Me, I will harden his heart with strength so that he will not let the people go.

Exodus 7:3 LSB

³ “But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart with stiffness that I may multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt.

Exodus 9:12 LSB

¹² And Yahweh hardened Pharaoh's heart with strength, and he did not listen to them, just as Yahweh had spoken to Moses.

Exodus 10:1 LSB

¹ Then Yahweh said to Moses, "Come to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants with firmness, that I may set these signs of Mine among them,

Exodus 10:20 LSB

²⁰ But Yahweh hardened Pharaoh's heart with strength, and he did not let the sons of Israel go.

Exodus 10:27 LSB

²⁷ But Yahweh hardened Pharaoh's heart with strength, and he was not willing to let them go.

Exodus 11:10 LSB

¹⁰ Now Moses and Aaron did all these miraculous wonders before Pharaoh; yet Yahweh hardened Pharaoh's heart with strength, and he did not let the sons of Israel go out of his land.

Exodus 14:4 LSB

⁴ "Thus I will harden Pharaoh's heart with strength, and he will pursue them; and I will be glorified through Pharaoh and all his army, so that the Egyptians will know that I am Yahweh." And they did so.

Exodus 14:8 LSB

⁸ And Yahweh hardened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, with strength, and he pursued the sons of Israel as the sons of Israel were going out with an exalted hand

Exodus 14:17 LSB

¹⁷ "As for Me, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians with strength so that they will go in after them; and I will be glorified through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen.

Exodus 4:21 LSB

²¹ And Yahweh said to Moses, “When you go to return to Egypt, see *to it* that all the miraculous wonders which I have put in your hand, that you do them before Pharaoh; but as for Me, I will harden his heart with strength so that he will not let the people go.

Romans 9:17 LSB

¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND IN ORDER THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH.”

Exodus 9:16 LSB

¹⁶ “But, indeed, for this reason I have caused you to stand, in order to show you My power and in order to recount My name through all the earth.

Jesus' choice of Judas

John 6:64 LSB

⁶⁴ “But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him.

John 6:70 LSB

⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, “Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?”

John 6:71 LSB

⁷¹ Now He was speaking of Judas *the son* of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.

Hebrews 3:12 LSB

¹² See *to it* brothers, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

Hebrews 12:15 LSB

¹⁵ seeing to it that no one falls short of the grace of God; that no ROOT OF BITTERNESS SPRINGING UP CAUSES TROUBLE, and by it many be defiled;

1 John 1:9 LSB

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 Corinthians 10:12 LSB

¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

Judas's Heinous Betrayal

Jesus' Friend

Psalm 41:9 LSB

⁹ Even my close friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.

John 13:18 LSB

¹⁸ "I do not speak about all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'HE WHO EATS MY BREAD HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.'

Psalm 55:12-14 LSB

¹² For it is not an enemy who reproaches me, Then I could bear *it*; Nor is it one who hates me who has magnified himself against me, Then I could hide myself from him. ¹³ But it is you, a man my equal, My close companion and my familiar friend; ¹⁴ We who had sweet counsel together Walked in the house of God in the throng.

John 13:14-18 LSB

¹⁴ "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. ¹⁶ "Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor *is* one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. ¹⁸ "I do not speak about all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'HE WHO EATS MY BREAD HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.'

The Events Leading to the Betrayal

John 12:4–5 LSB

⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was going to betray Him, said, ⁵ “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?”

John 12:6 LSB

⁶ Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to take from what was put into it.

Matthew 26:14–16 LSB

¹⁴ Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and said, “What are you willing to give me to deliver Him to you?” And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him. ¹⁶ And from then on he *began* looking for a good opportunity to betray Jesus.

John 13:21–22 LSB

²¹ When Jesus had said these things, He became troubled in spirit, and bore witness and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me.” ²² The disciples *began* looking at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke.

Matthew 26:22 LSB

²² And being deeply grieved, they each one began to say to Him, “Surely not I, Lord?”

John 13:23 LSB

²³ There was reclining on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

John 13:24–25 LSB

²⁴ So Simon Peter gestured to him to inquire, “Who is the one of whom He is speaking?” ²⁵ He, leaning back thus on Jesus’ bosom, said to Him, “Lord, who is it?”

The Betrayal

John 13:26–30 LSB

²⁶ Jesus answered, “He is the one for whom I shall dip the piece of bread and give it to him.” So when He had dipped the piece of bread, He took and gave it to Judas, *the son* of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷ And after the piece of bread, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly.”

John 13:26–30 LSB

²⁸ Now no one of those reclining *at the table* knew for what purpose He had said this to him. ²⁹ For some were thinking, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus was saying to him, “Buy the things we have need of for the feast”; or else, that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰ So after receiving the piece of bread, he went out immediately. And it was night.

John 13:31 LSB

³¹ Therefore when he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him;

Genesis 50:20 LSB

²⁰ “As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to do *what has happened on* this day, to keep many people alive.

Zechariah 11:12–13 LSB

¹² And I said to them, “If it is good in your sight, give *me* my wages; but if not, never mind!” So they weighed out thirty *shekels* of silver as my wages. ¹³ Then Yahweh said to me, “Throw it to the potter, *that* valuable price at which I was valued by them.” So I took the thirty *shekels* of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of Yahweh.

If ever Judas had loved Jesus, the love of money smothered it, and the root of bitterness possessed him, for there is a trace of vindictiveness and a spice of revenge in his final act of treachery. ~ Herbert Lockyer

Exodus 21:32 LSB

³² “If the ox gores a male or female slave, the owner shall give his *or her* master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.

Judas’ Kiss

John 18:1–7 LSB

¹ When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples to the other side of the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, into which He entered with His disciples. ² Now Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place, for Jesus had often gathered there with His disciples. ³ Judas then, having received the *Roman* cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴ So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” ⁵ They answered Him, “Jesus the Nazarene.” He said to them, “I am *He*.” And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. ⁶ So when He said to them, “I am *He*,” they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷ Therefore He again asked them, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus the Nazarene.”

Matthew 26:48–50 LSB

⁴⁸ Now he who was betraying Him gave them a sign, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him.” ⁴⁹ And immediately Judas went to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed Him. ⁵⁰ And Jesus said to him, “Friend, *do* what you have come for.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.

Judas’s Horrific Destruction

Matthew 26:24 LSB

²⁴ “The Son of Man is going, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.”

Matthew 27:3–4 LSB

³ Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and

elders, ⁴ saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? See *to that* yourself!”

Acts 3:19 LSB

¹⁹ “Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

John 6:70–71 LSB

⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, “Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?” ⁷¹ Now He was speaking of Judas *the son* of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.

Luke 22:31–34 LSB

³¹ “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded to sift *all of* you like wheat. ³² “But I have prayed earnestly for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, once you have returned, strengthen your brothers.”

Luke 22:34 LSB

³⁴ And He said, “I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me.”

John 13:27 LSB

²⁷ And after the piece of bread, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly.”

Luke 22:61–62 LSB

⁶¹ And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, “Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times.” ⁶² And he went out and cried bitterly.

Matthew 27:5 LSB

⁵ And he threw the pieces of silver into the sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself.

Acts 1:18 LSB

¹⁸ (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his unrighteousness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out.

Hebrews 10:31 LSB

³¹ It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Conclusion

Matthew 26:50 LSB

⁵⁰ And Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you have come for.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.

John 6:37 LSB

³⁷ “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never cast out.

Discussion Questions

The sermon describes Judas as someone who outwardly followed Jesus but was spiritually dead inside. What are some warning signs that someone might be outwardly religious but inwardly far from Christ? How can believers guard against that danger in their own lives?

Judas is described as a “**double-minded man**” ([James 1:8](#)). What does it look like today for a Christian to have divided loyalties between Christ and the world? What areas of life most often reveal divided allegiance?

The sermon compares Judas’ gradual hardening to Pharaoh’s hardened heart in Exodus. How does repeated resistance to God’s truth lead to a hardened heart? Can you think of ways believers might slowly harden themselves toward God without realizing it?

Judas’ love of money and selfish ambition remained hidden for years. Why is hidden sin so spiritually dangerous? What practical steps can Christians take to keep sin from quietly growing in their hearts?

Despite knowing Judas would betray Him, Jesus still washed his feet, honored him at the table, and called him “friend.” What does Jesus’ kindness toward

Judas reveal about the character of Christ? How should Christ's patience toward sinners shape the way we treat others?

The sermon states that "proximity to Christ is not the same as saving faith." What are some ways people today may be close to Christian things (church, Bible teaching, Christian community) without truly trusting Christ?

Judas felt remorse, but Peter experienced true repentance. What is the difference between remorse and repentance? How can we recognize the difference in our own lives?

Both Judas and Peter failed Jesus, but their responses were very different. What do we learn from the different responses of Judas and Peter after their sin? Why is returning to Christ after failure so important?

The sermon highlights Paul's command to "test yourselves to see if you are in the faith" ([2 Corinthians 13:5](#)). What are some biblical ways believers can examine their hearts without falling into unhealthy doubt about their salvation?

The sermon ends with a call to come to Christ, repent, and trust Him. How does the gospel give hope even to those who have failed badly in their walk with God?

The Gospel

God

Created and owns everything

[Gen 1:1](#)—*In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth*

[Psalm 24:1](#)—*The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it.*

Is Perfectly Holy

[1 John 1:5](#)—*This is the message we heard from Him and announce to you that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.*

[Matt 5:48](#)—*Therefore you are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

Requires perfect obedience to His Law

[James 2:10](#)—*for whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.*

Man

Has broken God's law

[Rom 3:10,23](#)—*there is none righteous, not even one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

Will pay the eternal penalty for his sin

[Rom. 6:23](#)—*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*

Cannot save himself by his good works

[Titus 3:5](#)—*He saved us not based on works which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.*

Christ

Came to earth both as God and sinless man

[Col 2:9](#)—*For in Him the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form*

Demonstrated God's love by dying on the cross to pay sin's penalty

[Rom 5:8](#)—*But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*

[2 Cor 5:21](#)—*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Rose from the grave and is alive today

[1 Cor 15:4](#)—And that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

Sinners

Must repent of all that dishonors God

[Isa 55:7](#)—Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

[Luke 9:23](#)—if anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

Must believe in Christ as Lord and Savior

[Rom 10:9](#)—that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.

Will you repent and believe in Christ?

[Acts 17:30](#)—therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance God is declaring to men that all everywhere should repent.

Don't hesitate to contact Pastor Brandon or Pastor Keith if you have any questions about this sermon or if you would like to know how to follow Christ.

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