

## THE TREACHERY OF JUDAS

"And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them. And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him." Mark 14:10-11.

Against the background of the beautiful picture of Mary anointing the head and feet of Christ, how black is the figure of Judas Iscariot. From this moment forward the story of Judas is a tragic one. Along with the other eleven, he had accompanied Christ through the years of His earthly ministry. He had witnessed His many miracles of power and listened to His matchless teaching. Until this moment in Mark's gospel, apparently the disciples had not noticed any defection in the attitude or the behavior of Judas. Instead, he had been given a place of honor in the group. He was their treasurer.

What was it that caused Judas to go directly to the chief priests in Jerusalem and to offer voluntarily to deliver Christ into their hands at a time and place when the multitudes would not be present? Covetousness was one thing which caused him to do it. He was crazed with the desire for money. This desire can make a man blind to decency, honesty and honor. It can make a man care not how he gets so long as he gets. If he could not have the money that Mary spent in her preparation to anoint Christ, then he would lay hold upon the thirty pieces of silver that the chief priests would offer him for his betrayal of Christ.

Undoubtedly Judas had the demon of jealousy within his heart. It is easy to see how there would be some tensions among the Twelve, and evidently jealousy was one factor in his terrible deed. There are very few things which can wreck life for ourselves and for others as jealousy can.

Furthermore, Judas was ambitious. His ambition was such as to cause him to trample on love and honor in order to gain the end upon which he had set his heart.

The basic explanation for the terrible sin of Judas was stated quite simply by both Luke and John. Luke stated, "Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot" (Luke 22:3). In the last analysis that is what happened. These are the things which made Judas betray Christ.

(In this message I also used the sermon, "The Pitcher Bearer", Mark 14:13-16).