

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

DO YOU PERSONALLY KNOW GOD?

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PART 2: BEING GOD'S FRIEND

In the previous sermon we learned that God wants to be the friend of every believer in Christ but it can be hard to accept because some Christians do not like themselves and are not able to forgive themselves even though God has forgiven them. Others do not have a great relationship with their parents and so they have a hard time relating to God as our heavenly Father, much less to God who is a close friend.

TWO DIFFERENT DESTINIES

Jesus called twelve men to follow and become His disciples. Let's look at two of them: Judas Iscariot and Simon, also known as Peter. **Matthew 10:1-4**

JUDAS ISCARIOT

The New Testament gives no information about Judas prior to coming to Jesus. Iscariot is not a last name but simply means, "inhabitant of Kerioth," which was a city in southern Judah. All we know is that this man came from the city of Kerioth.

Jesus never told the disciples why they were selected, but all of them had been looking for the Messiah, and that is what drew them to Jesus. **John 1:40-42**

Jesus appointed Judas as the treasurer despite the fact that he was a thief and stole from Jesus. Judas did not love Jesus and could not accept the fact that Mary would anoint Jesus with a very expensive ointment. **John 12:1-8**

Even though Judas never believed that Jesus was the Son of God, he was still commissioned by Jesus to preach and cast out demons and had success just like the other apostles. **Luke 9:1-2**

Jesus already knew when he called Judas to become a disciple that he would not accept Jesus as the Son of God and repent of his sins. **John 6:66-71**

Judas was a very religious Jew but his faith was not directed toward salvation and the forgiveness of sin; instead, he wanted a political Messiah who had supernatural powers by which to drive out the Roman occupation army and establish the kingdom of Israel that would rule the entire world. His religion was mixed with politics. **John 6:14-15**

Judas had seen Jesus walk on water, cast out demons, heal the sick, raise the dead, cure the lame and give sight to the blind. He had also seen Jesus create food with His hands and feed thousands of people. There was no doubt in Judas' mind that Jesus had the necessary power to be the "militant messiah" who could rule the world and restore the glory of Israel. But Jesus was going in the wrong direction, and just like with Peter, it made Judas upset. **Matthew 16:20-23**



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THE BETRAYAL

Judas had been with Jesus for three and a half years. There had been the glorious success in Galilee but those days were over as Jesus and the disciples moved south to Jerusalem. Jesus spoke about dying and the Jewish leadership bristled with hate for Him.

Judas made up his mind and went to the chief priests and offered to betray Jesus to them. **Matthew 26:14-16**

This came as no surprise to Jesus. **verses 19-25**

Jesus showed love toward Judas by washing his feet (**John 13:1-5**) and letting him partake in the Passover meal. **Matthew 26:26-30**

Think about the following questions:

1. Did Judas betray Jesus for the money?
2. Did Judas betray Jesus because he was angry with Him?
3. Did Judas betray Jesus because he wanted to force Jesus to use His supernatural power once he was arrested and threatened with death?

Jesus told us that Satan entered into Judas and deceived him into thinking that once Jesus was backed into a corner, He would come out fighting and establish an earthly kingdom. Satan had already tempted Jesus by offering Him the world if He would just worship Satan one time. **Matthew 4:8-11**

A BRUTAL AWAKENING

Once Jesus had been arrested, tried by the Jewish leadership and condemned to death, Judas finally realized that Jesus was not going to fight. Jesus, the man who had loved him for more than three years, was going to die and it was Judas' fault.

Judas had never loved Jesus and confessed Him as the Son of God; instead, he tried to use Jesus as a powerful man with supernatural power but JUDAS REFUSED TO RECEIVE THE LOVE OF JESUS AND BE SAVED!

Instead of confessing his sins and the terrible act he had committed, Judas turned from God and decided to pay for his sin by taking his own life. Judas could have been forgiven but he refused to receive the love of God. ***Pride hindered him from coming to God and repenting!* Matthew 27:1-10**

Judas forever condemned himself to the Lake of Fire by his actions. Here he will spend an eternity of torment and be punished for the sin he tried to pay himself. Even an eternity of torment cannot pay for his sins.

SIMON PETER

Peter, along with his brother Andrew, had been a disciple of John the Baptist. When John told them he was not the Messiah and pointed out Jesus as the

Lamb of God, Peter came to Jesus for the same reason Judas Iscariot did, he believed Jesus was the Messiah. **John 1:35-42**

Peter acknowledged he was a sinner when he experienced the power of God expressed through Jesus. **Luke 5:1-11**

Peter was not ashamed of confessing that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of the living God. **Matthew 16:13-17**

Peter loved Jesus and Jesus loved Peter; he was selected to be part of the transfiguration. **Matthew 17:1-7**

Peter was a proud man and did not want Jesus to wash his feet but surrendered when he realized he might be cast away. **John 13:6-9**

Peter loved Jesus so much, that when he saw Jesus came walking on the water and all the disciples were afraid, he asked to be able to walk on the water and meet Jesus. **Matthew 14:23-32**

Peter made a bold statement to never be offended or deny Jesus. **Matthew 26:31-35**

Peter had every intention of staying with Jesus but broke down when Jesus was arrested. He must have wondered how this powerful Messiah could be overpowered by men when he secretly followed Jesus and denied Him three times when confronted about being a disciple. **verses 69-74**

Peter wept bitterly when he remembered Jesus' words about denying Him. **verse 75**

Unlike Judas, Peter did not go and commit suicide, but repented and hoped for Jesus to be resurrected. He was the first apostle to whom Jesus showed himself after the resurrection. **Luke 24:34**

Jesus made sure that Peter knew he was loved, forgiven and accepted back into full fellowship with God before He left the earth. **John 21:12-19**

SUMMARY

Judas rejected the love of God and refused to let God be his friend. Peter was a sinner just like Judas but he was willing to repent, receive God's love and be His friend!

ARE YOU A JUDAS OR A PETER?

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?