

The Destiny of Judas

www.aubeacon.com

Introduction: As hard as many try to deny it, our choices and the actions that follow them will determine our destiny.

- A. Self deception is far easier than most realize! **(Gal 6:7-8)**
 - 1. It is very possible to know a principle of righteousness but then "reason" in such a way as to not apply it to yourself.
 - 2. We can become overconfident because we have hidden things from those around us or even worse have surrounded ourselves with people who dare not cross us!
- B. The lesson of Judas is one of destiny. How did he end up where he did?
 - 1. After the ascension of Jesus the first order of business was to replace Judas. **(Acts 1:15-17)**
 - 2. Very pointedly the destiny of Judas was stated. **(Acts 1:24-25)**
 - 3. And so it will be true with us that we go to our "own place." Where will it be?

I. What kind of man was Judas?

- A. Was Judas a puppet of God or did he make a choice?
 - 1. God knew that there would be a betrayer before Judas was born. **(Zech 11:12; Psa 41:9)**
 - 2. Judas demonstrated his character long before he betrayed Jesus. **(Jn 12:4)**
 - 3. God did not make Judas evil but rather chose to put an evil man there for His own means.
- B. How could Judas then be blamed by God?
 - 1. If the event was determined, then how could Judas be blamed? **(Lk 22:21-22)**
 - 2. Judas was used the same way God used Pharaoh. **(Rom 9:17-19)**
- C. How does God harden hearts?
 - 1. Does he take a good man and make him a bad one and then send him to hell?
 - 2. Consider how God hardened Pharaoh:
 - a. He made demands of a proud man. His reaction was predictable: "You cannot tell me what to do!"
 - b. He did not punish immediately. Pharaoh then thought he could get away.
 - c. He allowed Pharaoh to go the wrong way. If God does not dominate our lives, sin will. **(2 Tim 3:13)**

II. Judas went to the place he chose.

- A. Did Judas choose to go to hell?
 - 1. He did not verbally or directly think that he was.
 - 2. As Joshua pointed out to Israel, your actions will choose a destiny. **(Josh 24:15)**
- B. He chose a course of action in which the only result would be punishment by God.
 - 1. This is how the majority of the world chooses hell.
 - 2. Did Adam and Eve say: "Let us be cast out of the garden and die!"
 - 3. Did Lot want the fate his family experienced? He still made a choice! **(Gen 13:10-11)**
 - 4. Did king David want the misery that plagued him the latter part of his life?

5. Pilate was a man of poor character suited for the role he would play.
6. Judas may have thought he could do evil and bring about good and be right with God! **(Rom 3:8)**

C. Moses made a choice to be with God. **(Heb 11:24-26)**

D. Consider destinies people choose.

1. The drunkard never saw his end when he took that first drink rather he saw the drink! **(Prov 23:31-32)**
2. The drug addict never imagined the slavery that would follow.
3. Parents who think more of their ideal of parenting than of God's will have a destiny. **(Prov 10:1, 17:25)**
4. The Christian that softens stands on spiritual principles to find immediate relief from conflict but do not see the end result for the church. **(1 Cor 3:9-10)**

III. Judas was well suited for the place he went.

A. Our lives and their destinies are not accidents.

1. There is a "fitness" concerning our destiny. **(Lk 9:62)**
2. When one falls away and is marked they have made a choice in spite of God.
3. Who does not enter the kingdom? Consider the foolish virgins. **(Mt 25:10)**

B. What is your attitude about God and His gifts?

1. Does worship bore you? This may be an indication that you are not fit for heaven?
2. Has the unseen become more important to you than the seen? Judas failed miserably here. **(1 Tim 6:6-10)**
3. Our desire for heaven is not automatic! **(Col 3:1)**
 - a. It takes work!
 - b. On the other hand Pharaoh did what he wanted to and went to the place that suited him. **(Rom 9:22-23)**

IV. Judas went to the place Divine justice demanded.

A. Divine justice is something the world does not want to think about.

1. God will render unto us according to the morality we choose. **(2 Thess 1:6-9)**
2. Will God be fair? Yes!

B. Look at God's justice in our salvation.

1. Look at what He did to save us. **(Rom 3:23-25)**
2. Will God's love overlook our sins?

Conclusion: What place have you chosen?

A. It is folly to say you are living one way today but will somehow find a different destiny! **(Prov 1:26-33)**

1. How many who choose adultery return?
2. Sin is deceptive and powerful.

B. When we daily choose God we will have a rich life free from the terrors of the hypocrites. **(Prov 28:1)**

1. Take one day at a time and deal with all issues as God's will dictates.
2. If we will slow down and choose rather than be so busy to do what comes naturally, we will find the Lord's way. (Material adapted from Aubrey Belue)