

Message #104

Luke 22:1-6

One of the worst things that anyone can experience in life is the pain of learning that someone you thought was your friend, turns out to be your enemy. If you have ever experienced this, you know how devastating that is.

If a church or an individual is committed to the word of God and will of God, Satan will do his best to bring traitors into the relationship. Their hearts are not right with God. They will appear to be your ally, but in all reality they are your worst enemy.

These kinds of people are not just confused, they are evil. They pretend like they care about you. They pretend to be spiritual and friendly, but they are wolves in sheep's clothing. When God is at work there will always be a Judas in the situation.

That happened to Jesus Christ and it will happen to us. What we learn is this:

SATAN USES RELIGIOUS FRAUDS AND PRETENDERS TO TRY TO DESTROY ONE RIGHT WITH GOD.

If Satan did this to Jesus Christ, we can be certain he will try to do the same thing to those who love the Lord, the word and the will of God. The closer we are to the Lord, the more we are being conformed to His image, the more we will be hated by the false religious hypocrites.

When Jesus Christ was here physically on earth, there were many who wanted Him dead. They just did not know how to accomplish it. One problem was Jesus was too impacting on the people. The people loved Him and they loved His teaching. They rallied around Him. The people had never seen or heard anything like Him.

So Satan stirred up the religious world to try to destroy Him and he even stirred up certain individuals to plot to kill Jesus. In fact, in this text there are three persons or groups named:

PERSON #1 – Satan sought to kill Jesus Christ through false religious and political leaders.
22:1-2

The chief priests and scribes wanted Jesus Christ dead. This was false, hypocritical leadership who were never interested in doing the will of God or doing what was right for the people. They wanted power and they wanted Jesus Christ out of the way and wanted to kill Him.

The chief priests were the Aaronic line clergy club and the Scribes were the supposed scholars. They controlled the religious and political power. These two groups along with the Pharisees were the most powerful political and religious leaders on the face of the earth.

William Van Doren, a Hebrew/Greek scholar of the 1800's, said the most fatal heresies have always come from those who have been solemnly ordained to ministry.

Donald Grey Barnhouse said the simplest method of Satanic attack is to get ordained men in pulpits who are not really interested in God's truth.

There have been religious organizations and denominations led by men who are not interested in carefully understanding the word of God. Satan sees to it that they get the power.

The Passover was the feast which remembered Israel's deliverance from Egypt. The feast is found in Exodus 12. The feast contained the Unleavened Bread observance in which all unleavened bread was removed from homes for 7 days, the 14th-21st, as a symbol for purging sin. The Passover was considered to be one of the most sacred ceremonies to the Jewish people.

This was a time when the chief priests, Scribes, and Pharisees would truly shine. Many sacrifices were made at the Temple and it was a special, sacred and spiritual time.

But carefully notice what was happening with these religious and political leaders. They were seeking to kill Jesus Christ. Their ultimate ambition and goal at this sacred Passover time was not to worship God; but to destroy Jesus Christ.

The only thing that prevented them from doing that was the fear of the people, which was controlled by the sovereignty of God. In fact, you cannot help but see God's sovereignty in this. He is the one selecting the exact day for His Son to die, but He prevents these fraud leaders from doing that here through their own fears. **God sovereignly used their own heart's desire for public acceptance as a restrictive device to prevent His Son from being harmed.**

These are people going to worship services who hate truth. They hate Jesus Christ and want Him dead. Yet they pretend to be so spiritual in front of the people.

Let me give you four names from church history:

1) John Wycliffe; 2) Jon Hus; 3) Martin Luther; 4) William Tyndale.

Let me give you four common denominators about them:

- 1) They loved Jesus Christ.
- 2) They loved the word of God - Wycliffe and Tyndale were translators; Luther an interpreter and expositor; Hus a serious preacher and theologian.
- 3) They did the will of God - willing to go anywhere God led them.
- 4) They were hated by religious leadership: Hus and Tyndale were executed; Luther and Wycliffe were condemned and excommunicated.

Nothing has changed. If you purpose to accurately preach and teach God's word, you will soon flush out phony religious leaders who will hate you and want to destroy you.

PERSON #2 – Satan sought to kill Jesus Christ himself. **22:3a**

One of the chief goals of Satan was to kill Jesus Christ from the day He was born as a human (Rev. 12:4). He attempted to destroy the nation and lineage that would produce Jesus Christ. He tried to destroy Israel and the Davidic line.

He tried to kill Him as a baby by having all babies killed by Herod as soon as He was born (Matt. 2:13)

He tried to kill Him by temptation, specifically by having Him jump off the top of a Temple (Matt. 4).

During the life of Jesus Christ, there were various people who wanted Him dead. In fact, one time some of them wanted to push Him off a cliff.

Satan hates God and he hated Jesus Christ who is God and his goal was to kill Jesus Christ. That is His goal. He is out to kill the work of Jesus Christ in your life.

He will use any tactic he can to kill your spiritual life committed to Christ. He will use emotional attacks - such as the death of a loved one, physical attacks - such as a loss of health, and financial attacks such as a loss of income or job to try to crush you. He did that with Job.

But if you stay faithful, in the end you will win.

In this case, Satan knows he needs to get in the action himself. He takes a direct role in this mission to kill Jesus Christ.

PERSON #3 – Satan sought to kill Jesus Christ through Judas. **22:3b-6**

I don't know if you have ever had someone close to you turn on you or hurt you, but if you have you can relate to this. You expect the phony religious and political world to be your enemies. You expect Satan to be your enemy. What you don't expect is that someone who supposedly loved you and is loyal to you to become your enemy. When someone close to you turns on you and betrays you, it hurts deeply. That is what happened to Jesus.

Judas was one of the twelve. He was surnamed "Iscariot." The name probably means that he was a man from Kerioth, a city located 7 miles NW of Jerusalem.

There are three facts we want to bring out about Judas:

Fact #1 - Judas was one of the twelve. Luke 6:13-16

Judas was a privileged man. He was one of the twelve hand-picked men chosen by Jesus Christ Himself. He personally traveled with Jesus Christ. He was personally taught by Jesus Christ. He personally lived with Jesus Christ. He was personally given apostolic miraculous power by Jesus Christ (Luke 9:1-2). He was one of the elite twelve.

Fact #2 - Judas was the appointed treasurer. John 13:29/12:4-6

Judas was given a very responsible position. He held a prestigious and important position among the Apostles, he was the treasurer. He had a mathematical mind; a business mind; a management mind and he had a behind scenes worldly and unspiritual mind.

Just because one knows how to handle money does not mean he is spiritual. He may be a fraud. We must never equate financial success with spiritual success.

Fact #3 - Judas was Christ's friend. Psalm 41:9

David wrote in Psalm 41:9, "Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me." Jesus used this very verse in regard to Judas when He said, "I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats My bread has lifted up his heel against Me'" (John 13:18). Jesus was referring to Judas, who would betray Him (John 13:2). **In all reality, Judas was not Jesus' friend; he was His foe.**

Judas was an elevated man, but he was also an evil man. He is identified in the New Testament in the following ways:

- 1) He is the Apostle who "turned aside." Acts 1:25
- 2) He is the betraying man who receives a "woe" judgment. Luke 22:22
- 3) He is identified by Jesus Christ as being a chosen "devil." John 6:70-71
- 4) He is identified by Jesus Christ as being the only apostle in "hell." John 17:12

Judas was a religious shyster. He was not real. That is why Satan could enter him. In fact, there are two specific times when Satan entered Judas:

Time #1 - Satan entered Judas before he went to the chief priests to betray Christ. Luke 22:3-4

Time #2 - Satan entered Judas before he left the Last Supper to betray Christ. John 13:27

In both of these instances the Greek text is emphatic. Satan, himself, actually entered into Judas. In both of these instances, the fact that Satan had entered Judas was not noticeable to the other Apostles. It worked itself out in a behind scenes attempt to destroy Jesus Christ.

There are three important lessons to see here about Satanic and demonic possession:

(Lesson #1) - Satan and his demons may only possess one who is phony and false.

II Cor. 11:13-15

These religious frauds pretend to be spiritual and pretend to be so religious and pious. They are smooth operators in political and religious arenas. They are not true believers.

(Lesson #2) - When Satan and his demons actually possess someone, most times even those close with the Lord and right with God won't see it or sense it.

One possessed by Satan could be on the board of a church and the other board members would not initially see it or sense it. Peter, James and John were very close to Jesus Christ and they did not sense the Satan possession of Judas.

(Lesson #3) - When Satan and his demons actually possesses someone, they will seek to destroy the true work of God behind the scenes.

This Satan possession did not cause Judas to initially join an occult group filled with Satanic rituals and corrupt things. Demon-possessed people often don't appear to be demon-possessed people.

Mr. Miles used to teach us in theology that if we use the percentage here, then 1 out of 12 could actually be in the organization and not be right with God. So if our church is 500-600 people, then potentially you could have 40-50 people in it who are more in tune with Satan than Jesus Christ.

Verse 3 says that Satan entered into Judas. According to **verse 4**, we may notice the first thing that happens when he did was that he immediately left the group of godly people and found the godless leaders to determine how he could betray Jesus Christ.

Satanic people are drawn to religion and they are drawn to religious people who are not right with God and not interested in the truth of God. What we have here is a real Satanic covenant of religious people and ministers who are out to destroy Jesus Christ.

Verse 5 makes it clear that Judas made these leaders glad. They rejoiced because finally they have someone on the inside who can betray Christ and they can destroy Him. They agreed to Judas' money terms and joyfully and willingly paid it.

Money is a key force and motivator in Judas' life. He thought he could make some quick and big money by betraying Him.

I guarantee you this, behind every betrayal of our president is someone driven by a greed for power and money. There is money that is being paid to traitors to get them to lie and deceive. It has always been that way.

According to Matthew 26:15, Judas negotiated the price of 30 pieces of silver, which was about a month's wage. A piece of silver was comparable to a day's wage, which back in this time has been calculated to be about .16 cents.

This was the amount that the slave was worth in the O.T. law (Ex. 21:32). This was the exact amount that Zechariah predicted the Messiah would be sold for (Zech. 11:11-12). Judas was willing to sell out Jesus Christ for some silver.

I wonder how much Jesus Christ would be worth today. I wonder how much one would negotiate for the sale of Jesus Christ today. Religious leaders sell out all the time. They are not after truth and a relationship with Jesus Christ. Some are in it for the money.

Verse 6 says Judas agreed to the deal and began to look for just the right moment when the crowd would be sparse so he could get rid of Jesus Christ.

What would it take to get you to sell out your Christianity? How much would it take to get you to throw away your commitment to God and His word? For some it does not take much. They will sell out for money, sex, drugs, alcohol, job, fame.

Don't let that happen to you. If Satan tempts you, resist him and he will flee from you. Here is a good question for each of us to ask. Is Satan drawn to you or does he flee from you?