

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #84

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 22:1-6

Sermon Date: May 13, 2007

“Surely Not I, Rabbi?”

Judas Iscariot's words and deeds echo across the centuries. He is a classic antihero in the greatest story ever told. And so we prefer to distance ourselves from him. Some have tried to argue that Judas was just an innocent pawn in Satan's evil plot. The gospel writers are all critical of him. How do you regard Judas? Have you ever seen glimpses of yourself in Judas? Are you willing to look closely at his life, his character, his deeds?

God wove the storyline of Judas into all four Gospels, and it spills over into the first chapter of Acts. In the New Testament accounts we also discover that Judas' role was specifically foreshadowed in the Old Testament books of Psalms and Ezekiel. Perhaps, despite our discomfort about looking this evil schemer in the eye, we have some things to learn from his story. After all, he walked with Jesus as one of the twelve apostles for three years! He saw, heard, and experienced God in person! And yet he turned out to not be a true follower.

How about you? Are you a true follower of Jesus Christ? Are you sure? Ask God to show you the truth. Let's seek it together by studying Luke 22:1-6.

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studieditor@southshorebaptist.com

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Bible Study:

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the chart below to note your observations and any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>¹ Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, ² and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people. ³ Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. ⁴ And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. ⁵ They were delighted and agreed to give him money. ⁶ He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.</p>	

2. What was its meaning and symbolism of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread, also known as the Passover? (Consider Exodus 12:1-20, Deut 16:1-8)

3. How long have the Pharisees and teachers of the Law been in conflict with Jesus? (Skim back through some of the points of conflict Luke records – Luke 20:19-26, 19:45-48, 14:1-4, 11:37-54, 6:1-11, 5:30-35, 5:17-26, 4:16-30) At what point in this ongoing conflict did Judas become an apostle? (6:16)

Character Study – Judas Iscariot:

4. Judas plays a key role in Luke 22:1-6, so to understand this passage, it's helpful to take a broader look at his life and experiences. This also gives us a chance to practice doing a Bible Character Study.

In a character study, one first identifies and reads the collection of scriptures that relate to the character being studied. Helpful sources for doing this are a concordance or, better yet, a topical bible (such as Nave's) or a Bible encyclopedia (eg. www.studylight.org/enc/isb/).

But we'll save you that legwork this time. The following table shows such a set of verses related to Judas Iscariot. While you may think you're already familiar with a character such as Judas, God's Word has something new for us each time we open it. Therefore, read through these verses for yourself to get a fresh, first-hand, and comprehensive sense of who Judas was and what he did.

Matthew 10:4	Mark 3:19	Luke 6:16	John 6:70-71	Acts 1:16-25
26:14-16 26:21-25 26:47-50 27:3-10	14:10-11 14:18-21 14:43-45	22:3-6 22:21-23 22:47-49	12:4-6 13:2 13:18-30 17:12 18:2-5	Psalms 41:9 69:25 109:8 Zechariah 11:12-13

The questions on the following pages will help you to more closely observe, interpret, and apply these scriptures.

Dig Deeper:

Here are a few extra questions related specifically to Judas:

6. Consider Jesus' relationship with Judas. To what extent was Judas exposed to Jesus' life and teaching? What would he have seen and experienced first hand? How do you think it felt when Jesus washed Judas' feet in John 13:2-5 and later called Judas "Friend" in Mt 26:50?

7. Why do you think Jesus chose Judas to be an apostle? What does Judas' ultimate betrayal of Jesus reveal about Jesus' judgment?
... about Jesus' ministry strategy?

8. Do you think it was Judas' fault that Satan entered him? What do you base your opinion on? (Consider Lk 9:1, Jn 13:2, 26-27, 17:12)

9. Is it valid to say, "The devil made me do it"? What influence can Satan have over us today? What power do we have over Satan?
(See Luke 10:17-19, Matthew 28:18-20, James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:8-10)

The Bottom Line:

10. Is there any chance that you are hanging around with Jesus' followers – but not really one of them? If so, you are at great risk!

How can one know? The scriptures are full of passages that describe what a disciple of Jesus looks like. Disciples are marked by their love for God and one another, by their obedience, by their fruit, and by the overflowing of Christ out of their lives and into others. Take a look at the "Profile of a Disciple of Christ" on the back page and reflect on the evidence you see in your own life regarding your status as a disciple of Christ. Consider these questions as you view the profile:

a. Are you sure you are a true follower of Jesus? How do you know?

b. What are one or two aspects of your Christian walk that you feel are most important to improve right now? What can you do to grow in these areas, and who can help you?

Profile of a Mature Disciple

A Disciple Has a New Heart in Christ

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Cor 5:17)

I pray that out of His glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. (Eph 3:16-17)

A Disciple Exhibits Christ-Like Character

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Gal 5:22-23)

A Disciple Thinks Christianly

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. (Rom 12:2)

A Disciple is Faithful in Christian Practices

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. (Col 2:6-7)

A Disciple is Actively Engaged in Their Christ-Appointed Mission

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. (1 Pet 3:15)

Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved ... (Mark 16:15-16)