

INTRO: Pastor Weber uses object lessons for Sunday children's talks, so why can't I do the same for old people Wednesday evenings? Each week will be a different object; this evening it's a bag with 30 pieces of silver. By the way, money often leads us into temptation.

I. TEMPTATIONS PLACED BEFORE JUDAS

A. Event occurred after anointing; John 12:1; 6 days before Thurs/Passover

1. at Bethany, house of Simon leper (Matt.26:6)
2. Jesus anointed with expensive perfume by a woman
3. Judas and disciples indignant; money for or; maybe a recurring issue
4. Jesus rebuked Judas, and them all
5. Judas may have resented rebuke; getting even
6. or some other motive: simple greed; innate covetousness

B. The role of the Jewish leaders in Judas' temptation

- 1 chief priests (only 1 chief) includes Annas and Caiaphas
2. captains (v.4) on night duty; intermediaries?
3. plan already in works to kill Lazarus, also (John 12:10...were seeking)
4. many Jews following, believing in Jesus
5. Council feared multitudes in town for Passover
6. (religious) leaders plotting murder (Vince Foster, Whitewater, shot from behind in a robbery in which nothing was taken from him; drones)

C. Temptation of one of the inner Twelve!

1. Judas from Kerioth (v.3) Judea; others all Gallileans
2. keeper of money bag; used to take from it (John 12:6) Why not Levi?
3. worst indictment: numbered among the twelve (v.3)
4. betray = deliver into hands of enemy by treachery or breach of trust while professing faithfulness and friendship
5. temptations come even among the Lord's own close followers
6. this reading is for us who profess to be Jesus' followers

II. MONEY SHOWS PEOPLES' CHARACTER

A. How highly each person values certain things

1. Judas valued thirty pieces of silver more than the Son of God
2. ransom for a slave; but the amount isn't the point

3. every day of one's life presents decisions on relative values
4. how you spend (or don't) your money speaks volumes about you
5. applies to all areas of life, not just money; sleep in vs. attend service
6. believer chooses how to use his time, money, and all else

B. Many are obsessed with the things of this world

1. money merely represents all the other stuff (and time)
2. George Carlin's routine about stuff (vacation stuff; side trip; Winter Texans!)
3. daily bombardment by advertising telling us what we need, deserve
4. consumerism wants to make us want more stuff
5. intense competition for our time and attention and money
6. the more stuff we own, the more stuff owns us (mend, paint, repair...)

C. The spiritual danger of material things

1. you cannot serve God and mammon; Judas tried
2. hypocrisy of one pretending to be what he is not
3. eventually, the real self will show through
4. v.3 Satan entered Judas; chronic sin will be exploited by the devil
5. money/whatever or Jesus; no vacuum, middle ground
6. 1 Tim.6:8-10 love of money is root of evil...many...erred from the faith

III. THERE IS A CORRECT ATTITUDE TOWARD MONEY

A. Not by saying "Don't covet"

1. like saying, "Don't look at this money bag, or that cross behind me"
2. no law can eo ipso cause obedience (often opposite; So. Comfort rules)
3. maybe fear of consequences could force some compliance
4. but not when one sees that he is getting away with something
5. law isn't bad because people disobey it
6. it merely says what **ought** to be done in an ideal civil society

B. First things first

1. learn what God says about how things ought to be (Divine Law)
2. honestly face up to one's sins, re: money, and everything else
3. accept God's rebuke (Judas) warning; lest we harden our hearts
4. see Jesus a Redeemer; point of Lent: obedience, suffering vicariously
5. accept and apply regeneration and absolution He offered, offers
6. the more we confess, the more we love the Redeemer

C. The material will follow the spiritual

1. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness..." Mt.6:33)
2. like Paul, learn to rejoice in abundance and in want (Phi.4:11)
3. godliness with contentment is great gain (1 Tim.6:6)
4. every spiritual and every material give is from God (James 1:17)
5. ask not "What will You give me?" but rather "What will I give to Him from Whom I have received my all?"
6. so doing, we will and serve God first with all we are and have, and in doing, we will not give place to Satan. Enjoy. Amen