

Matt. 26:14-16; 27:3-5 Judas Scheming/Despairing March 5, 2025
Ash Wednesday @ Immanuel, Mercedes

INTRO: Judas had it made. He was a disciple of Jesus, an officer of the inner 12, the treasurer. John says (12:6) that not only did he keep the money bag, he also helped himself to money from it as he wished. And now he comes up with a plan to pocket a little extra. From the Sanhedrin he now has another 30 pieces of silver in his pocket. But listen to the contrast in Judas' mood (*read* 27:3-5) What a contrast! What went wrong with Judas' plans?

I. MANY PEOPLE LIKE TO MAKE PLANS

A. which, in itself, is not necessarily evil

1. king going to war or man building tower (Lk. 14:28)
2. Proverbs teach planning (15:22, 28; 20:14, 18)
3. unjust steward parable (Luke 16:8) says believers should make plans as diligently as do the worldly

B. Most of our plans are self-serving, worldly

1. For Judas, **anything** for a dollar
2. he loved money above the Savior (2 houses vs. God's house)
3. schemed for money instead of his soul (a disciple!)
4. some of **us** may spend day and night scheming for the dollar
5. are our schemes for God's kingdom and glory?
6. what was Judas's goal/motive in such scheming?
7. too often, love of money trumps Biblical principles

C. Some plans even disregard ethics or God's law

1. i.e., besides motive, even Judas' scheme was sinful
2. betraying an innocent One to evil people
3. not just money; David schemed from motive of lust
4. scheme may be to cheat for grades, promotion; popularity
5. or revenge, cause other's harm or inconvenience

II. DEPRESSION AND DESPAIR MAY BESET SCHEMERS

A. Perhaps occasioned by a crisis, wrong turn of events

1. troublesome for those who have heard God's word
2. esp. when things don't work out as planned
3. depression, despair when we feel helpless, hopeless
4. probable in economic crisis, sickness, terminal illness
5. what's left when best laid plans go awry?
6. Murphy's Law says if anything **can** go wrong, it **will**

B. Ultimate crisis is Judgment Day

1. before Eternal Judge, guilt is terrifying
2. many now choose to ignore, deny it
3. seek secular counselors to tell them 'you're OK'
4. Heb.9:27 It is appointed unto man once to die...
5. not a just man upon...; wages of sin...; he that believeth not...

C. Judas exemplifies facing judgment trusting our own schemes

1. he knew, had followed, had heard Jesus (as have we)
2. correctly identified and admitted sin
3. Mt.27:3 *metamelattheis* vs. *metanoein* (regret/repent)
4. Judas merely changed his mind when plan backfired
5. Jesus had walked through hostile crowds @ Nazareth
6. are **our** plans all we have to rely on at Judgment Day?

D. THERE CAN BE A HAPPY ENDING

A. Even Judas' sin is forgivable!

1. God will have all men (except Judas) to be saved..
2. God so loved the world (except Judas) that He gave...
3. in Room and Garden, offered opportunity for repentance
4. His compassing, grace, mercy, is out of this world
5. even as Judas despaired, Jesus was redeeming **his** sin!

B. Conform and confirm all schemes with God's Word

1. Judas was trying to scheme an out for a sinful scheme
2. should have thrown himself at Jesus' feet instead of coins
at Sanhedrin's feet (BTW, bad example of pastoral care)
3. stop scheming and start confessing in faith
4. confession, then absolution; you **are** forgiven
5. money? It's God's; we're the stewards; He's instructed us

C. Enjoy confidence now, and bliss eternally

1. His way removes worries; follow His scheme (Mt.6:33 seek
ye first; cp. lilies, sparrows_
2. best cure for depression & despair: God loves and
forgives; God provides and preserves
3. even provides a goal for our lives: serve Him **now**,
wait for our eternal bliss in glory

CONCLUSION: For the problem of depression or despair, Jesus is
the solution. For sinful scheming, or for any sin, the cure
is our confession and Jesus' forgiveness. AMEN