

## THE STORY of THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

## Lesson 3

Matthew 26.6-16; John 12.1-8

## A GIFT OF LOVE...AND THE LUST FOR BLOOD MONEY

Matthew is very deliberate in the way he places the story of Mary's anointing of His head and feet with this precious, costly burial lotion.

This was taking place just a very few miles outside Jerusalem, in Bethany.

While this murderous conspiracy was plotting together to kill Jesus, some of Jesus' friends were getting together with Him to honor Him and lavish their love and appreciation on Him.

I have included the John 12 account in with this lesson because I believe they relate the same incident. There are differences in the accounts of the story, but they are easily applied to the same event.

**John 12.1, "six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany..."**

**Matthew 26.2, "after two days is the Passover"**

**Matthew 26.6, "And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper..."**

**John 12.2, "There they made Him a supper; and Martha served..."**

**Matthew 26.7, "...and she poured it on His head..."**

**John 12.3, "Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus..."**

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Matthew wants us to see in stark contrast that while the Jewish leaders were plotting together in their murderous hatred to do away with Jesus *and make Him into a corpse* -- Mary is recognizing the urgency of the moment and wants to express her love and appreciation for the Lord Jesus while she can.

You know that Mary also would have been very sensitive to the jeopardy they were all in -- probably even more so than the disciples themselves -- because she would have been getting worried warnings from their friends about the word getting out that the chief priests were planning to kill Lazarus also because of the attention Jesus was getting for raising Lazarus from death. (**John 12.9-11**)

And so, it was with great heaviness of heart and a growing sense of fear and dread that Mary came to the supper that day and anointed the living body of the Lord Jesus as they would have a dead corpse.

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This incident also serves to "out" Judas Iscariot. This seems to be the event and the moment when he made his final decision and commitment to turn traitor against the Lord Jesus.

In the **Matthew 26** story, **verses 8-9**, the disciples begin to complain among themselves about Mary's extravagance...and her poor judgment to be so excessive in her expressions of love and affection toward Jesus. **"But when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying 'To what purpose is this waste? For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor.'"**

But, when you read the **John 12** account, you will find out that it was Judas Iscariot who got this protest started. This shows you how much influence and trusted leadership Judas had among the disciples.

**John 12.4-6: Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?"**

**This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.**

So, Judas had been trusted to take care of their “mutual funds”...and he had been pilfering from them all along! And what made him so angry over Mary’s extravagance was that she did not put that money into the group’s account so he could steal from it!

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The disciples were doing all this excited gossiping among themselves. They wouldn’t have rebuked Mary publicly with these words...and exposed their selfish complaints and motives to others.

**BUT JESUS HEARD IT...AND KNEW IT...AND HE JUMPED TO DEFEND MARY!**

***Matthew 26.10:* But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me.”**

***John 12.7:* Then Jesus said, “Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial...”**

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And so, after this stinging scolding from the Lord Jesus, Judas finally decided he had had enough.

***Matthew 26.14-16:* Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?”**

**And they counted to him thirty pieces of silver.**

**So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.**

***Luke 22.3:* Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the Twelve.**

**So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains,**

**how he might betray Him to them. And they were glad, and agreed to give him money.**

**Then he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude.**

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Several Old Testament prophecies are fulfilled by Judas’s evil betrayal.

***Psalms 41.9* states that the Christ would be betrayed by a trusted friend.**

**Even My own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate My bread, has lifted up his heel against Me.**

***Zechariah 11.12-13* even specifies the exact amount of money Judas would ask for and get from the chief priests. Then I said to them, “If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain.” So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said to me, “Throw it out to the potter”—that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter.**

This is precisely what Judas did with this blood money when it began to torment his conscience.

But it was too late then. The dirty deed had been done. ***Matthew 27.3-10; Acts 1.18-19***

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All of the references to Judas Iscariot in the Gospels as “the traitor” are written in retrospect. Because... no one had any suspicions of him right up to the moment he stepped out of the shadows with the chief priests and Temple soldiers and actually identified the Lord Jesus as the One they should arrest.

E.g., ***Matthew 10.4***, naming the 12 disciples whom Jesus named apostles, **“...and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.”** But none of the other disciples would suspect it was Judas until he actually gave himself away. (see also ***Luke 6.16***)

In fact, Jesus would later on...the night He was actually betrayed...reveal to the group of disciples that **“one of you shall betray Me.”** Everybody else in the Group of Disciples suspected himself more than he did Judas Iscariot. *Matthew 26.20-25*

Here's how John tells the story: *John 13.21-30*

1. Jesus reveals that one of the Disciples will betray Him.
2. John is reclining closest to Jesus at the table. Peter is across the table. He motions for John to whisper to Jesus to find out who the traitor is. John asks Jesus. Jesus tells John that it is the one who will receive the bread dipped in the sauce.
3. Jesus doesn't make a big public show of it; but during the course of serving the meal, gives the bread morsel dipped in the sauce to Judas Iscariot.
4. Judas knows what's in his own heart. He is the only one (besides Jesus) who knows or even suspects that he is the traitor.
5. When he receives the sop, he gets up from the table and leaves, and goes out into the night to do his dirty work of treason.
6. BUT THE OTHER DISCIPLES STILL THINK THAT JUDAS HAS GONE OUT TO BUY SOMETHING THE GROUP NEEDS FOR THE FEAST...OR TO GIVE SOMETHING TO THE POOR (which was customary at Passover) BECAUSE HE KEPT THE GROUP'S MUTUAL FUNDS.

THIS IS HOW WELL HE FAKED HIS TRUE CHARACTER...AND HOW WELL HE PUT ON ALL THE PROPER APPEARANCES OF BEING A FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST.

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Judas did not do anything any differently than every other apostle did during their three or so years together with the Lord Jesus. The other apostles never thought of Judas Iscariot as anything other than “one of us in every way.”

**Acts 1.15-17: And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, “Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; FOR HE WAS NUMBERED WITH US AND OBTAINED A PART IN THIS MINISTRY.”**

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Of course, Jesus knew from the beginning that Judas was **“a son of perdition...belonging to destruction.”** Judas didn't just go bad...or turn bad -- Judas Iscariot was in league with Satan from the beginning. Judas was **“a devil”** when Jesus chose Him.

Look at this revelation of Judas's true character and nature.

In *John, chapter 6*, Jesus has been teaching about the necessity of **“eating His flesh”** and **“drinking His blood.”** What He means by that is, when you receive Him, you must unconditionally commit yourself to His Lordship in your life. HE IS YOUR LIFE...and when you obey Him, you LIVE YOUR LIFE by your obedience to Him.

Many of those who heard Him couldn't accept that. They wanted to receive benefits from Him, if they could pick and choose the influences they were willing for Jesus to exercise in their lives -- but they weren't willing to repent of their sins and self-will and turn themselves over to Him.

**JUDAS WAS ONE OF THESE UNBELIEVERS**...even though outwardly, he had volunteered to join the Band of Jesus' Followers. Jesus “unmasked” Judas this early on -- {even though no one else (besides Judas himself) would have suspected that Jesus was referring to Judas}.

**John 6.64:** “But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.

{**John 13.10-11**, when He washed their feet...and told them that they had all been bathed (justified, born again) -- He made an exception of Judas. **Jesus said to (Peter), “He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean, but not all of you.” For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, “You are not all clean.”}**}

Back in **John 6**: Jesus then asked the Disciples whether any of them would leave Him like many did who had been superficial disciples in name only (**verse 66**). Peter spoke for the Disciples when he told the Lord that they would not abandon Him...they were convinced He was the Christ -- and they were committed to Him.

Peter thought he was speaking for all 12 of them...but Jesus knew better about Judas Iscariot.

**John 6.70-71:** Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the Twelve, and one of you is a devil?” He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the Twelve.

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Jesus CHOSE Judas Iscariot to be one of the Twelve...knowing from the beginning that Judas belonged to destruction and that he was the willing agent of Satan. WHY WOULD JESUS DO THIS? WHY WOULD HE DELIBERATELY, KNOWINGLY CHOOSE HIS OWN TRAITOR...AND BE AS GOOD AND KIND AND FRIENDLY TOWARD HIM AS HE WAS TO ALL THE REST?

1. Jesus was committed to obeying the Father...and this was the prophesied method by which He would be turned over to His enemies to be slaughtered as the Passover Lamb. **John 17.12: While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your Name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.**
  2. He also wanted to warn us that no amount of religious correctness, religious works, or religious profession can change your heart. You must REPENT, and BELIEVE UPON CHRIST...and YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN to see and enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
  3. He would also put us on notice that there will be many more after Judas Iscariot who will make all kinds of believable religious pretenses...and will deceive many, and perhaps will even turn on us and betray us as well as disappoint us and break our hearts. We cannot read people's hearts. We can only judge on the basis of outward evidences. BUT IF WE ARE BETRAYED AND DECEIVED...just know that your Lord Himself was BETRAYED BY A PRETENDER -- who had succeeded in fooling everyone else besides the Lord Himself.
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Judas Iscariot is often presented as a sterling model and example of someone who was saved...and then lost his salvation -- and became unsaved again. Judas Iscariot never fell from salvation. He did fall from his religious privileges and position -- but he never had a changed heart, he never loved the Lord Jesus, and he was never born again as a new creation in Christ. When the apostles chose Judas's successor, they made it clear that Judas fell from “...**this ministry and apostleship**” and that when he died, **HE WENT TO HIS OWN PLACE (Acts 1.25)**.

**This part of the story presents us with at least two examples we can follow:**

- (1) **MARY, who gave the Lord Jesus an extravagant gift of personal love and was not just recognized by the Lord Jesus, but was eternally memorialized; and**
- (2) **JUDAS ISCARIOT, who lusted after money and even got a little more of it by cutting a deal with the Devil -- although he lost his soul in the bargain.**