

4. **Step 4 – Judas followed Through** – (Garden of Gethsemane) <sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. <sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.” <sup>49</sup> Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. Judas went → from disciple → to thief → to money-lover → to deal-maker → to betrayer! *Can you see the slyness of the devil – just go this far! BUT ONE STEP IS NEVER ENOUGH, so let us never take the first step into sin!*

5. **Step 5 – Judas Hanged Himself** – In part because the church leaders of his day *did not rightly represent God!*
- <sup>3</sup> When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. <sup>4</sup> “I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.” “What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.” Judas was very sorry, *but no forgiveness was offered!*
  - <sup>5</sup> So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

**Conclusion:** Like Judas all have sinned, *but forgiveness is being offered through Jesus!* Let us **receive** and **rejoice** both now and forever! And all God’s people said: *Amen!*

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# Judas was Tempted, And He Fell!

Based on John 12:1-6; Matthew 26:14-25, 47-49; 27:3-5 NIV

Holy Thursday – 2010

April 1 → 11:00 & 7:00

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ, today we *conclude* our series on the topic of **temptation** as we focus on **Judas** – *the one who betrayed Jesus!* As we proceed through ✦ his arrangement with the chief priests and ✦ his time with Jesus and the others in the upper room, *let’s notice the OPPORTUNITIES he was given to abandon his evil plot and receive God’s forgiveness.*

- Step 1 – Judas was Greedy** – About one week before Jesus died, John records an incident where expensive perfume was poured on Jesus’ feet; *then Judas spoke up and said:* <sup>5</sup> “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.” [Then we read this comment:] <sup>6</sup> He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. So the greed of Judas ultimately led him to make a deal, so he could gain even more money – *even at the expense of Jesus’ life!* But that is so foolish! What did Jesus say – *in the very presence of Judas:* “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?” (Mark 8:36 NAS)

2. **Step 2 – Judas took Action** – (Wednesday of Holy Week)  
<sup>14</sup> Then one of the Twelve--the one called Judas Iscariot--went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup> and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty silver coins. <sup>16</sup> From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over. Money is a *powerful influence* toward evil. The Bible says: “People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap...” <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith...” (1 Tim. 6:9-10 NIV) That was true of Judas – one of the twelve, *so let us be VERY careful!* **Let us love God and His Word**, not money; but let us ✦ be thankful for money and ✦ use it according to God’s will – *not as owners, BUT AS FAITHFUL MANAGERS!*
3. **Step 3 – Judas was Identified** – <sup>17</sup> On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?” <sup>18</sup> He replied, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.’” <sup>19</sup> So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.
- a. (Upper Room) <sup>20</sup> When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. <sup>21</sup> And while they were eating, he said, “I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me.” Can you imagine what Judas was thinking when He heard what Jesus said: “How does He know?” “Does He know it is me?” But Judas was also being offered a way of escape! He could

have said to himself: “I haven’t betrayed Him yet, so I could return the money and forget the whole thing!” **But his GREED was too strong!** Furthermore, the Bible says that “Satan entered Judas (Luke 22:3 NIV)” (before he went to the chief priests). *But why?* Judas was closed to God’s will, *thus open to Satan!* But the Bible has this instruction for us: “...walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:16 NAS)

- b. <sup>22</sup> **They were very sad** [literally *grieving exceedingly*] **and began to say to him one after the other, “Surely not I, Lord?”** Then, *probably before Judas actually said those words:*
- c. <sup>23</sup> **Jesus replied, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me.”** Think about Jesus’ statement; without saying the name of Judas, *Jesus had identified him!* But how? Imagine the food on the table in the upper room – *roasted lamb, bitter herbs, unleavened bread* (Exodus 12:8) *and bowls for dipping the food* – possibly one bowl for every two people. Now, *thinking about those bowls,* Jesus’ statement identified His betrayer as “**the one**” who had dipped his hand into the bowl with Jesus!
- d. <sup>24</sup> **The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.** Not only for Judas, but for the many people who die without Jesus *will regret their sins forever!*
- e. <sup>25</sup> **Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” Jesus answered, “Yes, it is you.”** Doesn’t that make you want to shout to Judas and say: “*Stop; don’t do it; it’s not worth it!*”