

Seventh Sunday of Easter – 2026

Saturday, 5/16 at 4:00 | Sunday, 5/17 at 9:00



Text: Acts 1; 1 Peter 4; John 17 NAS 2020

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: This sermon will touch on a key point in each of today's three readings. By God's grace, let us understand, believe, and apply God's word!

JUDAS: Acts 1:16-18

Peter – after the ascension – spoke to Jesus' disciples:

¹⁶ "...Judas... became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.

¹⁷ ...he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry." ¹⁸ (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness...)

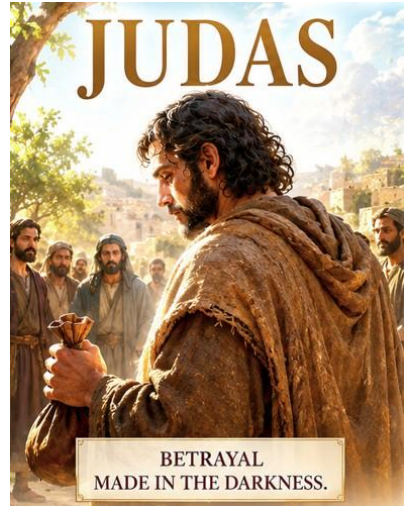
1. How did Judas share in Jesus' ministry?

- a. Jesus chose him as one of the twelve.
- b. He lived and traveled with the others.
- c. He heard Jesus teach and witnessed His miracles.

2. Did Judas go to heaven? The Bible never says he went to hell, but these passages lead us to draw that conclusion:

a. Jesus called him, “the son of destruction” (John 17:12), which also means, “the man of lawlessness” (2 Th. 2:3).

b. Jesus said, “It would have been good for that man if he had not been born” (Matt. 26:24).



c. Jesus referred to Judas as “perished” (John 17:12), that is, *having brought himself to ruin*.

d. Peter said, “Judas turned aside to go to his own place” (Acts 1:25), which implies *a place of judgment*.

e. Jesus said to His disciples, “you are clean—but not all of you” (John 13:10), *in reference to Judas*.

f. The Bible tells us, “Satan entered Judas” (Luke 22:3).

g. The Bible tells us, “he felt remorse” but it also says, “he went away and hanged himself” (Matt. 27:3, 5). The Greek word for “remorse” is not the same Greek word for “repent.” Judas experienced crushing remorse, **but not repentance** that leads to mercy through Jesus.

Peter wrote: ¹⁷ *...it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey [that is, do not repent and believe] the gospel of God?* ¹⁸ **AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN [NO RESPECT FOR GOD] AND THE SINNER [A LIFE CHARACTERIZED BY SIN]?**

1. Judgment on believers: It is temporary and done for good purposes. For example:
 - a. God Disciplines Us:
 - i. Instructing us.
 - ii. Punishing us when we go our own way.
 - iii. Bringing us back to a place of peace with Him and harmony with His word.
 - b. God Tests Us:
 - i. Permitting difficulties to come into our lives.
 - ii. Then carrying us through those difficulties to build our character and strengthen our faith.
2. Judgment on unbelievers:
 - a. Those who keep rejecting God's work in their earthly lives will face a much more serious eternal judgment.
 - b. For all who are rejecting God's truth and struggling in their lives, God is calling them to repent and believe.

Jesus prayed to His Father on Good Friday: ⁴ **I glorified You on the earth by accomplishing the work which You have given Me to do.** ⁵ **And now You, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world existed.**

1. How Did Jesus Glorify the Father? He honored Him by perfectly following His plan to save us!
2. How Did the Father Glorify the Son? After Jesus' ascension, the Father glorified Jesus, *both God and Man*, by giving Him authority over all creation!
3. How Do We Glorify the Father? Like Jesus, we glorify God by visibly doing the will of God! Jesus said: **Matthew 5:16** "Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

- ▶ for all today like Judas – *strongly warn them!*
- ▶ for all believers – *help them to understand and benefit from Your temporal judgments!*
- ▶ for all unbelievers – *lead them to repent before it is too late!*
- ▶ regarding Your glory – *help us to keep humbly trusting in You and faithfully living in harmony with the Bible!*

And all God's people said: Amen!