

Bible Study 04-16-2025

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"The Plot and the Betrayal"

Luke 22:1-6

1 Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is another name for the Passover Feast.

The Passover was an important feast on the Jewish calendar (Lev. 23). Three times a year every Jewish man was expected to go to the place of God's choosing, Jerusalem, to celebrate and remember God's deliverance of Israel out of the bondage of Egypt (Deut. 16). This week-long celebration would draw thousands of excited pilgrims from near and far. However, on each of these occasions, they must not appear before the Lord empty (without a gift for Him). Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which He hath given thee. **Song:** "How Much Do I Owe Him"

The first day of Passover week was paramount. It was the day that all preparations were made to celebrate the Passover. That night God told the Israelites to make final arrangements which included baking of the unleavened bread and the ceremony (an actual search) for the removal of all leaven from their households. Leaven was a symbol of evil to the Jews.

Galatians **5:9 NKJV** **A little leaven** (yeast) **leavens** (works through) **the whole lump** (batch of dough).

2 Corinthians **9:7 NKJV**

So let each one give as he purposes (decides) **in his heart, not grudgingly** (reluctantly) **or of necessity** (in response to pressure); **for God loves a cheerful giver.**

2 And the chief priests and scribes sought how they might kill Him; for they feared the people.

The streets were flooded with people preparing to praise God for His delivering power and sparing their lives. The very people who should have been spear-heading this great event were too busy plotting against Jesus. Many times before the religious leaders attempted to kill Jesus but with no success. During the holiest festival these religionists cleansed their homes but not their hearts. They were careful to keep the outside spotless, because that was the part men would see, and they loved the applause. But God sees and weighs the

condition of the human heart. Here He saw greed and self-indulgence. Jesus warned His disciples about the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy (**Luke 12:1, Matthew 16:6**).

The religionists were exposed by Jesus. Both the sin of men and the truth of God had to be proclaimed in an effort to move the religionists to mend their ways and to liberate the people from such enslaving behavior that they might have the opportunity to be saved and worship God freely. Some of the religionists thought Jesus was a deceiver, some were willing to consider the words of Jesus, some did believe and trust Him, some simply opposed and rejected God's only way of righteousness, which is to accept Jesus Christ. They saw Jesus as a threat, felt they did not have enough sin to separate them from God.

3 Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.

John 10 KJV 7 ..."Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. 10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Satan is the spiritual being who is out to destroy the relationship between God and men. He wanted to keep Jesus from fulfilling His assignment on earth. Judas was motivated and energized by Satan. He was numbered with the twelve, chosen by Jesus, walked and talked with the Lord, served as an apostle, heard the teachings and warnings of Jesus, He was so gifted and had so much opportunity, yet he lost it all. Judas turned his back on Jesus. Judas was not a believer, he was a deceiver.

Matthew 5:44 KJV

But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; (Romans 5:8)

4 And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him unto them.

Judas chose his own way rather than the path of righteousness. His heart and mind was set on earthly things rather than heavenly things. Here the chief priests and captains represent the world. Judas wanted recognition, power and money. He believed the world could satisfy and offer him more than Jesus.

5 And they were glad, and covenanted to give him money.

Judas apparently followed Jesus out of a heart of greed and worldly ambition rather than love, sincerity, and faith in Him as the Son of God.

1 Timothy 6:10 KJV

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

6 And he promised, and sought opportunity to betray Him unto them in the absence of the multitude.

Judas made a covenant with the world. He made a promise. Not only did he reject Jesus, he looked for opportunities to betray and destroy Jesus.

Matthew 7:15 KJV

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.