

Bible Study 04-01-2026

Title: The Betrayal

Scripture: Luke 22:1-6

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

This was the day that all preparations were made to celebrate the Passover while focusing on the lamb. Passover marked a new beginning for the Jews and bound them together as a nation. The Feast of unleavened bread was to be a lasting memorial for Israel to celebrate God's glorious deliverance of their forefathers from Egyptian bondage through the blood of the lamb (**Exodus 12**).

Isaac asked his father Abraham a question in **Genesis 22:7** "...Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering...? Abraham said, My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering."

The preparations included the securing of a year old unblemished male lamb which was to be taken into the temple to be sacrificed. The lamb was chosen on the tenth day of the month and carefully watched and examined for four days to make sure it met the divine specifications. On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month the lamb was slain and its blood applied by dipping hyssop plants into the basins of blood onto the lintel and side door post of the Jewish families homes. God promised, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you". It was not the life of the lamb that saved the people from judgment, but the death of the lamb. (**Hebrews 9:22**) Without shedding of blood there is no remission or forgiveness. The Passover lamb is a picture of Jesus Christ. John the Baptist pointed to Jesus in **John 1:29** and said, "*Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*" What the Old Testament high priest did every year with the blood of animals, Christ did once and for all with His own blood. The Old Testament sacrifices were temporary and had a one year warranty. But Christ's sacrifice was permanent, and eternal redemption. Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and He will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to bring salvation to those who are eagerly waiting for Him (**Hebrews 9:28**).

The Jewish Festival of Unleavened Bread was observed for seven days as they removed all yeast from their homes (Spring cleaning). Yeast, also known as leaven in the Bible, is often symbolic of sin:

(NIV **1 Cor 5:7-8** "Get rid of the old yeast by removing this wicked person from among you. Then you will be like a fresh batch of dough made without yeast, which is what you really are. Christ, our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed for us. **8** So let us celebrate the festival, not with the old bread of wickedness and evil, but with the new bread of sincerity and truth").

Eating unleavened bread would remind the Israelites of their hasty exit from Egypt because their deliverance happened so quickly that there was no time to use the yeast to allow the bread to rise before their departure. The Passover meal consisted of roasted lamb, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs, each of which symbolized valuable spiritual truth.

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

Rather than the leaders planning the Passover feast, they met behind closed doors to arrange the murder of the very One who had come to be their Savior and Deliverer. They didn't want a riot on their hands and kept their desires private. They saw Jesus as a threat to their nation and to their own personal position and security. According to the Scriptures, they would use deception and lies. (**Matthew 26:4; Mark 14:1**)

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

At that very moment there is another power at work. The power of the enemy. Judas, one of Jesus' twelve disciples, who knew Jesus, walked with Him day after day, ate with Him, learned and witnessed Jesus' wondrous works and warned of sin's consequences by Jesus Himself, Judas Iscariot allowed that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan who leads the whole world astray, enter his heart (**Rev. 12:9**). Satan used an available vessel. He is the spiritual being who opposes God and is out to destroy the relationship between God and men. **If** Satan could destroy Jesus and keep Him from completing His work on earth, then man could never be saved.

NIV **Luke 4:13** *When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left Him until an opportune time.*

Satan left Jesus alone for a season.

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

NKJV **Colossians 3:1** *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. **2** Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

Judas Iscariot was a follower of Jesus, but not a genuine believer. Judas failed to give his heart and life to Him. With Satan's influence, Judas became convinced he had been wrong about Jesus. Therefore he chose the world over Jesus. Judas made a decision and went his own way.

NKJV Luke 9:23 *Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.* **24** *For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.*

LIVE FOR JESUS. Work to please Christ on earth and you will save your life eternally.

Philippians 2:13 *For it is God who is at work in you, both to desire and to work for His good pleasure.*

A man does not have life to indulge himself: getting all he can of the comforts, pleasures and interests of life. Nor does he have life to hoard life: keeping all the good things of life and seldom becoming involved or participating in giving and sacrificing to help someone else. **NKJV Luke 9:25** *"For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?"*

The man who seeks to please himself is doomed to "lose himself" and to be cast away (forfeit or suffer loss). He lost the greatest things in all the world; the assurance and confidence of knowing that he is eternally secure and destined to live and serve God forever.

Judas communed with the world. He became worldly; his mind and heart were upon worldly acceptance, recognition, prestige, position, power, and wealth...He thought those who were of the world were the better and winning side and could offer much more than Jesus.

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

The religious leaders cleaned their homes but not their hearts. (Matthew 23:25-28). They believe they have found a solution to get Jesus out of their way. Problem solved. Satan is working and the leaders are glad. Judas motives for following Jesus were not authentic. He apparently following Jesus out of a heart of greed and worldly ambition, not out of a heart of love and faith in Him as the Son of God. He filled his heart with lust for more and more of the temporary rather than with Jesus.

NLT Eccl. 5:10 *Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness.*

KJV 1 Timothy 6:10

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.

They chose to prioritize the material over the spiritual, making time to grow their material lives while allowing their spiritual lives to decline. They grew slack on coming to church, prayer meetings, attending Bible Study, church functions, participating in Christian fellowship, quality family time...The longer you stay away the more the root of distance grows and places you in a far away country.

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

Satan reproduced himself perfectly in Judas. Judas promised and sought opportunity to betray Him. The picture is that of being on the prowl, searching and seeking, looking here and there for the right moment.

NLT **John 10:1** *"I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber. 10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."*

Jesus the Good Shepherd willingly gave His life for His sheep. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold.