

JUDAS BETRAYS JESUS

Matthew 26:14–16

JUDAS GOES TO THE CHIEF PRIESTS (MATTHEW 26:14)

- his meeting with the chief priests and officers of the Temple Guard perhaps took place at the home of Caiaphas (cf. Matt 26:3)
- the captain (Acts 4:1; 5:24, 26) and officers (Luke 22:4, 52) of the Temple Guard were Levites who policed the Temple Mount
- Judas solved the dilemma of the chief priests: how to arrest Jesus secretly without causing a riot in the city (cf. Matt 26:4–5)
 - Judas took the initiative in betraying Jesus—being impelled by Satan
 - possible motives: (1) greed (Matt 26:15; cf. John 12:6), (2) anger because Jesus rebuked him at the banquet (John 12:7), (3) disillusioned because Jesus was going to die and not establish the Kingdom, (4) time to get out before it was too late, (5) tried to force Jesus to use his power to establish the Kingdom
 - known motives: Satan entered Judas (Luke 22:3; cf. John 13:27) and put the thought of betrayal into his mind (John 13:2)
 - Judas may have been possessed by Satan throughout Jesus' ministry (John 6:70)
 - perhaps Satan led Judas to the home of Caiaphas to betray Jesus
 - he was privileged to hear the teaching and see the miracles performed by Jesus for three-and-a-half years
 - earlier he appears only in the list of disciples (Matt 10:4; Mark 3:19; Luke 6:16) and when many disciples deserted Jesus (John 6:71), but now becomes a leading character in the Passion Narrative (Matt. 26:14–16, 21–25, 47–50; 27:3–10)

BLOOD MONEY (MATTHEW 26:15)

- Judas asked how much they would pay him to hand Jesus over—revealing his greed and intensifying his guilt (Matt 26:15)
- the verb *paradidomi* is used 57 times of the capture of Jesus and means to "deliver" or "hand over into someone's custody"
- *paradidomi* does not mean "betray" as found in most Bible translations (cf. Mark 15:1, 15; John 18:30; Rom 8:32; Gal 2:20)
- once he is called a *prodotes* "betrayed, traitor" (Luke 6:16); most often he is called *ho paradidous* "the one who handed over"
 - Judas was an informer, perhaps seeking a reward from the chief priests and the Pharisees (cf. John 11:57)
 - the chief priests rejoiced at their good fortune (Luke 22:5) and promised to pay for his help (Mark 14:11)
 - they weighed and paid him 30 pieces of silver in advance to keep him from backing out (Matt 26:15)
- a denarius was worth 4 silver shekels, so 30 silver shekels (coins) were worth 120 days wages for a day laborer (cf. Matt 20:2)
- the price of a slave was 30 silver shekels (Exod 21:32)—an appropriate price for the Suffering Servant (Matt 20:28=Mark 10:45)
 - this betrayal price was prophesied in the Old Testament (Zech 11:12–13; cf. Matt 27:3–10)

LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO BETRAY JESUS (MATTHEW 26:16)

- with the money in his possession, Judas now began looking for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to the Temple authorities
- he found a good opportunity during the Passover supper: after eating the Passover Jesus "proceeded as was His custom to the Mount of Olives" (Luke 22:39) and entered the garden of Gethsemane (John 18:1–3)
- he provided what they wanted: an opportunity "to seize Jesus by stealth" (Matt 26:4) "apart from the multitude" (Luke 22:6)—
 - at night outside the city of Jerusalem
 - he was "a guide to those who arrested Jesus" (Acts 1:16; cf. Luke 22:47)
 - it was prophesied that one of the Messiah's close friends would betray him (Psa 41:9; 55:12–14; John 13:18)
 - Jesus knew from the beginning of his ministry that Judas would betray him (John 6:64)
 - he was not saved: Jesus called him "the son of perdition (*apoleia*)"—the one destined for destruction (John 17:12; cf. *apoleia* used for the eternal destruction of the wicked in Matt 7:13; Rom 9:22; Phil 3:18–19; 2 Thess 2:3; 2 Pet 3:7; Rev 17:8, 11)