

DEVICES OF SATAN: Disillusionment of Selfishness

Luke 22:1–6; Matthew 26:1–16; John 13:2; 27

Selfishness is a black hole of gravitational force that light or love cannot escape

Introduction:

1. Former NSA employees arrested last week: Hacking for Hire
2. Sharing U.S. Secrets w/ foreign gov. who hire them for big \$ to hack gov. systems
3. Not only do they get \$, they are given status for their trade secrets

I. THE DEVICE – Selfishness of the Heart

A. THE TARGET: Desire of the Heart (John 13:2)

1. **The Target is Always a Point of Weakness—the Desire of the heart**
 - a) But How could Satan have put this in his heart?
 - b) How could a disciple of Jesus, who spent three years seeing Jesus heal the sick, give sight to the Blind, cast out demons and raise the dead...
 - c) Who heard Jesus speak the most gracious words of Life...
Then betray the Savior of the World?
2. **The Heart is at the center of our decision making—so it must be guarded**
 - a) The Intellect, the Will, and the Emotions—all enthroned on the Heart
 - b) Thoughts Proceed Actions—and all things Proceed from the Heart
 - c) *Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. (Prov 4:23 NIV)*
3. **To Be In the Inner Circle of the Most Famous Rabbi in History...**

carries tremendous notoriety, it carries risks, and even temptation

 - a) People are trying to get to Jesus to hear Him, and be healed by Him
 - b) They Want to See a Miracle, they Want to Be Apart of a Movement
 - c) Some Want to Take Jesus by Force and Make Him a King
 - d) Others are Threatened by Jesus and want Him arrested because of their Envy

They Already Have a Plan in Place and a Price on His Head

 - e) Jesus Had Just Entered Jerusalem that Week with a Crowd Chanting He was King
 - f) He Overturned the Tables of the Money Changers & Drove them Out with a Whip
 - g) Then He Openly Challenged the Authority of the Scribes and Pharisees
4. **As Pressure is Building, Jerusalem is becoming more tense as floods of people are flowing into the city for the Passover...**
 - a) And Jesus is talking to the Disciples in more and more Fatalistic Language...
that He must be rejected by the Chief Priests, Scourged, Beaten and then Killed!
 - b) **Notice a critical event Just 6 days before Judas Betrays Jesus (John 12:1–8)**
 - c) Judas didn't Care about the Poor—He Cared About Himself—He was a Thief
 - d) Judas Already Had a Selfish Heart—Callous Enough to Steal, Bold Enough to Lie
and Selfish Enough to accuse Others of Wrong to Cover His Own Selfishness
 - e) People of the Lie Attack Others Rather Than Face their Own Failures

B. THE TACTIC: The Disillusionment of Selfishness

1. A Heart of Selfishness Eventually Becomes Disillusioned...

because a selfish heart is rarely a satisfied heart.

- a) Selfish People Are Perpetually Unhappy People—because Selfishness is Perpetual
- b) Selfishness Can Never Be Satisfied—therefore it becomes Disillusioned

2. Judas is Angry... Angry for this ‘waste’, angry at Mary, angry at Jesus for accepting it and then probably angry for being openly rebuked by Jesus

- a) So While John tells us who caused this strife (Judas) and why (Thief)
- b) Matthew records what Judas does immediately afterward (**Matthew 26:10–16**)

3. Emily Dickinson: “The heart wants what it wants—or else it does not care.”

- a) This is when Judas cuts a deal with those in power—to Get the Desire of His Heart
- b) Be Careful What You Want—Because You Might Get It

C. THE INTENT: Betrayal

1. Jesus kept appealing to Judas in love even on the night of the betrayal

- a) He washed the feet of the disciples — including Judas’
- b) He said one would betray him, a perfect time for Judas to have a change of heart
- c) Jesus is even protecting Judas from the other disciples...Because if they had known what Judas was about to do—they would not have let him out of that room alive.

2. But by the time Jesus identified the betrayer—Judas had made his decision

(John 13:21–27) “Satan entered him...”

- a) Satan could not have entered Judas — unless Judas had opened the door.
“There is no handle on the outside of the door of the human heart. It must be opened from within.” (Barclay)
- b) Before Satan entered Judas—Judas had already entered the house of the most elite and powerful man in Jerusalem, who can give Judas what he wanted.

3. Think of a Traitor to our Country—He might’ve been patriotic at one time...

- a) But when Things Didn’t Go His Way, Important People Didn’t Listen to His Ideas,
- b) He Didn’t Get the Positions, or Status, or Money he wanted—
His Heart Grows Bitter, His Loyalty is To Himself, His Heart is Now Open for Business

D. THE RESULT: Suicide

1. The Savior of the World was sold for the price of a slave—30 pcs of silver

- a) But as soon as the Deal was Complete—Judas regretted it...

2. Sin lacerates the conscience with guilt (Matthew 27:3–5**)**

Judas tried to silence his conscience by killing Himself

“He sought to set himself right, not with the innocent Jesus whom he had betrayed, but with the accomplices in his crime; and because that world which his selfishness had made his god failed him in the last, he went and hanged himself.” (William McBirnie)

Selfishness is a black hole of gravitational force that light or love cannot escape...

This is the self-annihilation of Selfishness—It only ends ends in death.

II. THE DEFENSE – To Love the Lord With All Your Heart

A. GUARD YOUR HEART (Prov. 4:23 NIV)

1. WHY DID JUDAS BETRAY JESUS?

- a) Was it **SELFISH PRIDE**? Was Judas angry or vindictive because he was rebuked? And no one listened to his advise? His grand ideas rejected?
- b) Was it **SELFISH GAIN**? Was it the Money?
He had lived almost at Poverty level by following Jesus for 3 yrs
- c) Was it **SELFISH AMBITION**? For Position or Power?
The Disciples had argued over who would be greatest in kingdom
Was he expecting prominence in a kingdom he thought would be different?
But willing to get power from the Chief Priests and Rulers Now?

2. Whatever Motive You Attribute—There's 1 Common Thread to them All... —**JUDAS WAS SELF-SEEKING**—That Was His Fatal Flaw.

- a) It Doesn't Matter If It Was Selfish Pride, Selfish Gain, Selfish Ambition...
Judas Never Surrendered His Selfishness

B. BE HONEST WITHIN YOUR HEART...

1. Even after 3 years with Jesus—

- a) even though Jesus was teaching, Judas wasn't Listening...
- b) Even though Jesus is Healing—Judas isn't Watching
- c) Something is Holding Judas Back from Surrendering his heart

2. Paul said: Examine **yourself** whether you are in the faith (2 Cor 13:5)

- a) This means Examine your own work, rather than comparing to others (Gal. 6:3–5)

3. Money Was a Problem for Judas—but he was in Denial of this problem

- a) The Money that had been so important before—meant nothing now (Prov. 20:17)
- b) We Think of Denial as a Defensive Layer protecting us from being hurt by others...
- c) But Denial is also Used in an Aggressive Way to Justify Getting What We Want
- d) Judas Never Conquered this Temptation—So It Conquered Him (1 Timothy 6:9–10)
- e) People Betray God for Much Less...

4. A SINGLE DESIRE—Left Unchecked—CAN OVERTAKE AN ENTIRE LIFE...

- a) *"No Man is Free Who is a Slave to His Own Desires"* (Seneca)
- b) (James 3:14-16) No One Can Serve Two Masters

5. WHAT IS THE DESIRE OF YOUR HEART? **CHART** (Mt 6:21)

C. TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART (Proverbs 3:5–6)

1. Judas' life would've been far different **IF** he had trusted in the Lord with his all his heart—and leaned not on his own flawed understanding

- a) Nothing can meet the expectations of a Selfish Heart—It's a Black Hole
- b) Not Even Jesus can meet everyone's self-centered expectations
- c) This Results in the Disillusionment of unmet expectations

**2. Judas Refused to Accept Jesus for Who He Was—
and Tried to Make Jesus what he Wanted Him to Be.**

a) I'll Follow You Jesus—

–IF You Give Me What I Want...

–IF You are the Messiah I Want You to Be

–IF You Do What I Want You To Do

–IF You Let Me Be Who I Want to Be—Not Who YOU Want Me to Be

3. It is Not Jesus Who Can Be Changed By Us—

it is Us Who Must Be Changed By Jesus!

a) We Must Never Try to Use Jesus For Our Own Purpose

b) We Must Submit to Him for His Purposes

The Tragedy of Judas is the Tragedy of the Man Who Thinks He Knows Better than God (Barclay)

**D. DELIGHT IN THE LORD AND HE WILL GIVE YOU THE DESIRES OF
YOUR HEART (Psalm 37:1–4)**

1. David was not perfect and he knew it! David struggled just like we all do

a) But He Loved the Lord Enough to seek Him daily for help (**Psalm 139:23–24**)

2. David Prays for Four Things:

(1) For God to know him and expose his thoughts;

(2) for God to try, or perfect, his thoughts;

(3) for God to purge away whatever evil remains in him;

(4) and for God to lead him in the way everlasting.

3. This is What it Means to WALK IN THE LIGHT (1 John 1:7–9)

“Happy the Christian who prays thus every day! Who puts himself into the presence of the all-seeing God, who stands in his light, and is willing to have anything and everything which is not right brought to light and judged. This is the true walk “in the light.” Even the thoughts must be so dealt with. In the New Testament it is expressed in this wise, “bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:5). Then there is the willingness to put away anything which is grievous to God and to his Spirit and to be led in the way everlasting.” (Arno Gaebelein)

All of this is Summed Up in the First and Greatest Commandment...

E. LOVE THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART (Mark 12:28–31)

1. When We Learn to Love the Lord with ALL Our Heart, Soul and Mind

**2. When We Learn to Seek first the Kingdom of God and HIS Righteousness,
(not our own self-righteousness)**

3. God Blesses Us Beyond Anything We Could Ever Deserve!

CONCLUSION:

***2 Chron 16:9 “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth,
to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.”***