

## THE TWELVE (12)

### Don't Give Up on Jesus

#### A. Introduction

1. Who were the Twelve?

The Twelve were men who were called to believe in Jesus and to follow Him.

The Twelve were men who were chosen from a larger group of disciples to be apostles and were given what they needed to do this role.

2. What do we learn from The Twelve about what it means to be disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ?

Andrew taught us that disciples of Jesus introduce people to Jesus.

Simon Peter taught us that disciples of Jesus are changed by Jesus to be like Jesus.

John taught us that disciples of Jesus love the truth about Jesus.

James taught us that disciples of Jesus learn to suffer for Jesus.

Philip taught us that disciples of Jesus never stop learning about Jesus.

Nathanael Bartholomew taught us that disciples of Jesus are waiting for Jesus.

Matthew Levi taught us that disciples of Jesus show the welcome of Jesus.

Thomas taught us that disciples of Jesus want to be with Jesus.

James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, Judas Thaddaeus teach us that disciples of Jesus give up everything for Jesus.

#### B. Meet Judas Iscariot

1. The final member of the Twelve is Judas Iscariot.

We don't know much about his background.

His father's name was Simon.

"(He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.)" (John 6:71)

"Judas Iscariot, son of Simon." (John 13:2)

2. He was chosen by Jesus to be an apostle.

"When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor." (Luke 6:13-15)

He willingly followed Jesus when others gave up.

"From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." (John 6:66-69)

He preached the gospel, drove out demons and healed the sick.

"When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick." (Luke 9:1-2)

"He was one of our number and shared in this ministry." (Acts 1:17)

He had the responsibility of looking after the money for the group.

"He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it." (John 12:6)

"Since Judas had charge of the money." (John 13:29)

He looked no different to the other members of the Twelve.

### 3. He was a betrayer.

Every time Judas is mentioned, we are told that he betrayed Jesus.

"James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him." (Matthew 10:3-4)

"James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him." (Mark 3:18)

"James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor." (Luke 6:15-16)

Judas never really loved Jesus and He never really understood who Jesus was and what He came to do.

He never called Jesus "Lord" only "Rabbi".

"Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" (Matthew 26:25)

"Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him." (Matthew 26:49)

### 4. What do we learn from Judas Iscariot about what it means to be disciples of the Lord Jesus?

Disciples of Jesus don't give up on Jesus.

## **C. Judas Iscariot gave up on Jesus**

### 1. How did Judas give up on Jesus?

His disgust.

"Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wage." He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it." (John 12:1-6)

His decision.

"Then one of the Twelve – the one called Judas Iscariot – went to the chief priests and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty silver coins. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over." (Matthew 26:14-16)

"Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over." (Mark 14:10-11)

"Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. They were delighted and agreed to give him money. He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present." (Luke 22:3-6)

His hypocrisy.

"When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me." They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely not I, Lord?" Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born." Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" Jesus answered, "Yes, it is you." (Matthew 26:20-25)

His betrayal.

"Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. "What you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus told him, but no-one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him...As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night." (John 13:25-28, 30)

"Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples." (John 18:2)

"While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for." Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him." (Matthew 26:47-50)

His remorse.

"When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. "I have sinned," he said "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility." (Matthew 27:3-4)

His death.

"So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself." (Matthew 27:5)

"(With the reward he got for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)" (Acts 1:18-19)

## 2. Why did Judas give up on Jesus?

God planned for him to betray Jesus.

"Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me." (Psalm 41:9)

"If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were raising himself against me, I could hide from him. But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend, with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship as we walked with the throng at the house of God." (Psalm 55:12-14)

"May their place be deserted; let there be no-one to dwell in their tents." (Psalm 69:25)

"May his days be few; may another take his place of leadership." (Psalm 109:8)

"I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver." (Zechariah 11:12-13)

"Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!" (John 6:70)

"While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled." (John 17:12)

"For," said Peter, "it is written in the Book of Psalms, "May his place be deserted; let there be no-one to dwell in it," and, "May another take his place of leadership." (Acts 1:20)

Satan tempted him to betray Jesus.

"Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve." (Luke 22:3)

"The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus." (John 13:2)

"As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him." (John 13:27)

Judas willingly decided to betray Jesus.

"The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, but woe to that man who betrays him." (Luke 22:22)

#### **D. Matthias did not give up on Jesus**

1. He did not give up on Jesus when Jesus was on earth.

"Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection." So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles." (Acts 1:21-26)

2. He did not give up on Jesus when Jesus went back to heaven.

Depending on which tradition you believe, either Matthias preached the gospel in Jerusalem where he was stoned to death, or he preached the gospel in Ethiopia where he was crucified.

#### **E. Disciples of Jesus don't give up on Jesus**

1. Disciples of Jesus don't give up on Jesus because they are being kept by Him.

"To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ." (Jude 1)

"To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy." (Jude 24)

2. Disciples of Jesus don't give up on Jesus because they keep themselves in God's love.

"Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life." (Jude 21)