JUDAS BY TRANSGRESSION FELL

ACTS 1:12-26
1-25-2026

This passage unfolds the tragic end of one who was a disciple of Jesus Christ.
It shows the seriousness of sin.

* **WE NEED TO SERIOUSLY TAKE HEED TO OUR PERSONAL LIVES!**
How? By being aware of what sin can do to your life:

I. BEWARE OF THE DECEITFULNESS OF SIN (V. 17-18a)
(Sin is a deceiver)

A. SIN CAN TOUCH THE MOST PRIVILEGED PEOPLE (V. 17)

B. SIN CAN GO UNNOTICED BY OTHERS (V. 17)

C. SIN CAN OFFER A VERY APPEALING REWARD (V. 18a)

II. BEWARE OF THE DESTRUCTIVENESS OF SIN (V. 18b-26)
(Sin is a destroyer)

A. THE STING OF SIN (Sin's Catastrophe)

1. Sin will lead you to do what you never thought possible (v. 16; v. 18b)

2. Sin will rob you of what could have been (v. 17, 20, 25)

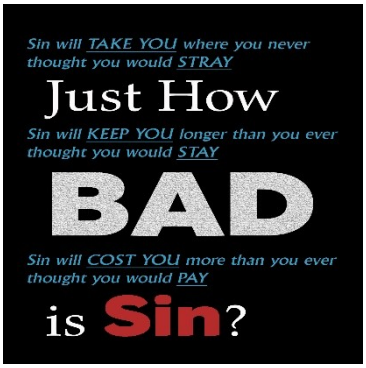
B. THE SHAME OF SIN (Sin's Disgracefulness) (V. 19-24)

1. The perpetual remembrance of Judas (v. 19)

2. The appointed replacement for Judas (v. 20-24)

C. THE SENTENCE OF SIN (Sin's Condemnation) (v. 25)

Conclusion: To see the enormity of our sin means nothing,
if we fail to see God's grace and willingness to forgive us!



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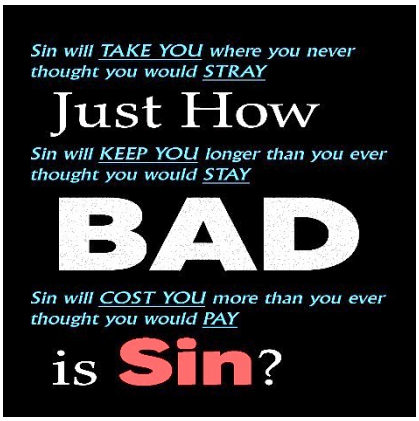
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INTRODUCTION: Read passage (v. 12-26) Comment along the way.

V. 12 - "Sabbath day's journey" = about one-half mile. The distance Rabbis allowed jews to journey on the Sabbath (Ryrie).

(v.16, 20) - Just as Psalm 41:9 spoke about David's (the king's) enemy, now Peter applies that Scripture to Christ's (the King's) enemy.

(v. 26) - "Lots" - Prov. 16:33; Lev. 16:8 - not voting, but direct choice by God.

Some say Paul should have been 12th Apostle:

1) There is no indication that the choice of Matthias was wrong in Scripture
2) He was numbered with the eleven (v. 26; cp. 2:14)
3) Paul had a unique ministry to go <u>to</u> the Gentiles; the 12 went to the Jews with the Gospel. (Gal. 2:6-9)

Note: Revelation 21:14 - And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. Whose name will be on the 12th foundation of the wall? Will it be Matthias or Paul? I'm not sure. I think Paul's ministry was unique from the 12 others. Unique in that he went to the Gentiles with the Gospel. One thing I know for sure! Judas Iscariot's name will not be there.

This passage unfolds the <u>tragic end</u> of one who was a disciple of Jesus Christ.

It shows the <u>seriousness</u> of sin.

The Bible says: "Let him who thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall"
Read Acts 1:25

*** WE NEED TO SERIOUSLY TAKE HEED TO OUR PERSONAL LIVES!**

How? By being aware of what sin is and what sin can do to your life:

I. BEWARE OF THE DECEITFULNESS OF SIN (V. 17-18A) (Sin is a deceiver)

Beware of thinking that you are strong!

A. SIN CAN TOUCH THE MOST PRIVILEGED PEOPLE (V. 17)

Judas was numbered as one of the 12. He was part of the most elite group of people in history--to be a disciple of Christ. He had an important responsibility. He was the treasurer for the 12---and he fell!

The more privileged you are...the higher you are...the more opportunity you have: The harder you fall!

No one can play (toy) with sin and get away with it.
EX: David
EX: TV evangelists

You may think: "I have been a Christian for 60 years!"
"I am a charter member of this church"
"I have been to Bible College and Seminary"
"I have wonderful Christian parents"

Sin touches the most privileged!

Outside of God's power and grace, no one is exempt from falling into the depths of sin.

It doesn't matter how much you know about the Bible--if you don't fear sin.

It doesn't matter how much you serve--if you don't fear sin.
God wants obedience, not merely sacrifice.

B. SIN CAN GO UNNOTICED BY OTHERS (V. 17)

Judas was a secret unbeliever.

He (along with the other 11) went out witnessing (2x2)
He passed out the food for the hungry 5,000
He performed miracles and witnessed God's power

Judas must have been a master at deception. They didn't suspect Judas at the Last Supper

At the Last Supper, Jesus said, "One of you shall betray me." They said, "Master, is it I?" never suspecting Judas. Even when he went out, they thought it was to carry out business.

READ John 13:27-29.

Jesus said, "Have not I chosen 12 and one of you is a devil?" (they never suspected Judas)

You can hide sin for a while from your mate, pastor, boss etc. but not from God! We may be self-deceived into thinking "because no one knows, its OK"

Judas didn't even want to make it obvious to onlookers that he was the betrayer of Jesus, so he deceitfully gave a clue to the arresters that he would kiss the one whom they were to seize, rather than point him out directly (Lk. 22:47-48)

You can fool men, but you can't fool God! In the end it will be found out!

However, everything stands "naked and open unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."

C. SIN CAN OFFER A VERY <u>APPEALING REWARD</u> (V. 18A)

Judas lived for <u>money</u>.

1) He was angry when costly ointment was spent on Jesus.
READ John 12:1-8.

Cp. Mt. 26:8 - "To what purpose is this waste!"

Nothing you do, give, sacrifice for Christ is a waste.

2) He was a thief (John 12:6) – perhaps a petting thief to begin with.
I find that sin does its work gradually and then it grows. Sin corrodes one's character like rust on metal, or cancer in the body, and then spreads like leaven (baker's yeast) in a lump of dough. Judas didn't start off betraying the Lord. This was his las act. He simply started down the path to the betrayal by stealing a few coins from the
treasury bag he held for the disciples.

30 pieces of silver. Sin will always offer some present, something appealing, something glamorous, some enjoyment.

The Devil is an artist - he paints sin in very attractive colors.

If it didn't, we would never want to sin.

The adulterous is appealing, but "her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell" (Prov. 5:5)

Beware of the appealing reward of sin. Its loss is always greater than its gain.

Sin is a deceiver! Hebrews 3:13 - But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

II. BEWARE OF THE DESTRUCTIVENESS OF SIN (V. 18B-26) (Sin is a destroyer)

A. THE STING OF SIN (Sin's Catastrophe)

"The sting of death is sin" (I Cor.15:56)

You can't play with sin without getting stung
(Ill. playing with bees)

1. Sin will lead you to do what you never thought possible (v. 16; v. 18b)

Judas never really thought that his betrayal would actually lead to the death of Christ. He probably thought that Christ's arrest would spark the Messiah into destroying His enemies and then setting up the kingdom. And then Judas would be really rich!

READ Matthew 27:3-8.

"The field which Judas obtained with the blood money was actually purchased by the priests (Mt. 27:6-8). They probably purchased it in Judas' name since it was legally his money." (Kent, p. 27).

Judas never thought that the money he received for betraying Jesus would be the money that purchased his grave yard.

"Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7)

--Haman never thought he would hang by his own gallows.
--The jealous enemies of Daniel never thought they would be thrown into the pit they prepared for Daniel.

The thief never thinks of getting caught. The drug-user never realizes that he is destroying himself. Homosexuals never imagined that AIDS would be the consequence for their sin.

What sin offers may seem great, wonderful, exciting, pleasurable, but in the end sin never gives what it promised.

The Bible says, "And be sure, your sin will find you out."

"Sin when it is finished bringeth forth death" (Ja. 1)
You don't play with sin.
Sin eventually brings destruction.

ILLUS: A circus performer could do an amazing feat in front of an audience. He would put his head in the mouth of a lion, and the crowd would applaud. Until one day the lion chomped, and it took six bullets to kill that lion--with the dead man's head still gripped between its teeth.

2. Sin will <u>rob</u> you of what could have been (v. 17, 20, 25)

Sin robbed Judas of the most rewarding life imaginable. He gave up (traded in) a life that could be profitable, challenging, beneficial, etc.

"Of all the words of tongue or pen, the saddest these: It might have been."

B. THE <u>SHAME</u> OF SIN (Sin's Disgracefulness) (V. 19-24)

1. The perpetual <u>remembrance</u> of Judas (v. 19)

I would rather move away into a cave somewhere than to live with
<u>shame</u>!
(The epitaph inscribed on our memory of Judas Iscariot is not a good one in any way)

Judas Iscariot turned a very good name into a bad one. Judas' Hebrew name was "Judah" – which means "praise" (Genesis 29:35). However, when we hear the name Judas' a negative connotation comes to mind.

How many of you named your son "Judas"?

In Webster's dictionary: The name "Judas" has now come to mean - betrayer; one who betrays another under the guise of

friendship.

2. The appointed <u>replacement</u> for Judas (v. 20-24)

Sin not only disgraces (v. 19); sin disqualifies (v. 20-24).

NOTE: "It was the defection (apostate treachery) of Judas, not his death, that caused the replacement. Not effort was made to replace James when he died by martyrdom (Acts 12:2) (Kent, p. 27).

If you think that God will use you although you still live in sin, you are wrong.

God even had to replace Moses because of his sin.

God needs and wants us, but He can do without us. God will use someone else. No one is irreplaceable. We need to be vessels unto honor. God can't use sin!

Paul lived with Godly fear: "I keep my body under subjection . . . castaway (disqualified)"

C. THE <u>SENTENCE</u> OF SIN (Sin's Condemnation) (v. 25)

If we were to go to “our own place” it would be Hell! However, all glory to God, He in His grace can change our eternal residence so that we can end up in His place (Paradise) which we do not deserve.

Sin however, condemned Judas to receive what he deserved.

"It pays to sin" "sin pays" - It pays a wage (salary) namely <u>death</u> (Rom.6:23) Sin's wage is nver reduced. The pleasures of sin are "for a season", but sin's wages are for eternity. (Knights, p.461)

Matt. 26:24 - "The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born."

Remember this about sin:

The High Cost of Sin:
Sin will *take you* where you never thought you would STRAY
Sin will *keep you* longer than you ever thought you would STAY
Sin will *cost you* more than you ever thought you would PAY

If we could ask Judas today, "Was it worth it?", he would cry out from the horrible, dark pit of hell -- "No! It's not worth it!"

Nothing is worth more to you than a right relationship with Jesus Christ!

Rejecting Christ is man's way of shaking his fist at God and saying "NO" I don't want you in my life. And Hell is God's way of saying "OK, yo may have your own wish"

Conclusion:

Sin is a deceiver and a destroyer.

I preach against sin this way because I know what it can do.

You don't label a bottle of poison (strychnine) with the label "The essence of peppermint" You call it what it is!

Only when we see sin for what it is, then we become aware that our soul is not right with God.

To see the enormity of our sin means nothing, if we fail to see God's grace and willingness to forgive us!

When we recognize that our sin is a big deal to God, it is then that we see our need for God's saving
grace.

Jesus loves you and paid your sin debt in full, so that you will not perish (like Judas), but have everlasting life.

The Lord is willing and able to save you from sin and it's lethal consequences today!

Trust His Word and His saving power. Trust His Son today.