

Acts # 15

“Replacing Judas”

*Ephesians 4:11-16; Acts 1:15-23; John 12:1-8; Matthew 27:3-6*

**Notice that Judas was smart, knowing where to go to betray Jesus Christ; he went to the religious crowd; to religion itself.**

It was religion that hated Jesus Christ and Judas was smart enough to notice that it was the chief priests, the scribes and the Pharisees who constantly rejected Israel’s Messiah and constantly maligned the Son of God.

*Judas kept on looking for the perfect opportunity to betray Jesus but right up until the time of the Passover, there was no opportunity and so, his chance comes during the last Passover meal, just before the last Passover becomes the first Eucharist or the Lord’s table.*

**One thing to note about Judas Iscariot was that he could still accept Jesus Christ as Savior; he could actually recover from all of this up to the very end of his life.**

But even with this heavy guilt, he continued to remain in a state of negative reaction toward Jesus Christ as Savior; he continued to reject Him and as a result of his guilt plus his negative reaction, he developed fantastic self-induced pressure in his mind.

**When our human spirit sends biblical truth to our emotions, we appreciate God; so no truth means no appreciation of God.**

Emotion is a response to something in our thoughts, a result of what we think and when we think biblical truth, we appreciate things on the basis of biblical truth.

*Emotion (when it’s not in its proper place) effects the physical body with psychosomatic illness.*

When we refuse biblical truth, we create a vacuum which draws in religion and emotionalism and when these become our lifestyle, we make them our standards and then we become absolutely miserable people.

**If you love Jesus Christ, your emotions respond in memory of all He is and all He has done for you.**

The relation of truths that are in our hearts and the bread and cup of Communion give our emotion an opportunity to respond to the One unseen Person whom we love and yet still maintain poise and stability while in assembly worship.

**The repentance of Judas Iscariot explains to us about what happens to a person who takes a common detail of life such as money and blows it out of its proper proportion.**

Judas was a lover of money which means it was his god being more important to him than Jesus Christ who was nothing to him.

*We’ve already seen he was a thief; the treasurer that stole what was in the treasury as often as*

*he could and 30 pieces of silver apparently was a lot of money to him, enough to provide him with a very happy wonderful life because for a sum of money he betrayed the Son of God.*

**The big lesson for all of us about Judas here is that his life is money and now that he has money, he is incredibly miserable.**

If biblical truth is first in our lives, we're going to have a wonderful life; if biblical truth is not then we cannot be occupied with Jesus Christ and we become occupied with the details of life which become so important that they will ruin our Christian lives as we magnify them out of their place and ultimately lose them and then we're miserable for all our efforts.

**If anyone allows the pressure of guilt to continue and add to it a standard of emotion and then add to that sincerity, he's going to crash and burn.**

And Judas' mind could not take all of this so it snapped and his last act of negative reaction to the love of Jesus Christ was to take his own life, something no one has the right to do. *Judas has had a negative attitude since the day Jesus called him as a disciple; so long that when he gets enough guilt and enough emotional sincerity in his mind at the same time, it implodes and the last and only thing he thinks he can do is kill himself.*