

GOD'S CALLING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Lesson Seven

IN THE GOSPELS: Judas Iscariot - The False Disciple

Burden to Impart:

The Lord allows all kinds of persons to follow Him, even some false ones. The weaknesses of the Lord's disciples did not prevent them from following Him faithfully. He was able to work in the lives and hearts of each one of them, except Judas. Judas' problem was not weakness, it was falsehood and hypocrisy. Although he was so close to Jesus, He never called Him "Lord," only "rabbi."

Memory Verse: "Search me, O God, and know my heart: Try me...and see if there be any wicked way in me..." (Psalm 139: 23-24).

Facts to Teach:

1. None of the twelve Apostles that the Lord called were "perfect." Peter was too outspoken. Thomas lacked faith. He even disbelieved the Lord's resurrection! James and John were so "fiery" and impetuous that the Lord called them the "sons of thunder." There are no perfect disciples, for the Lord calls us as we are. Yet, as we follow Him, we gradually become like Him.
2. Of the twelve Apostles that the Lord chose, all were faithful to the Lord except one, Judas Iscariot. To have weaknesses is one thing, to be a false disciple is another. Although the Lord knew that Judas was a "devil" (John 6:70-71) who would one day betray Him, He purposely chose Judas to be with Him. Having been so close to the Lord Jesus, Judas surely has no excuse for rejecting Him. It was his own choice.
3. Judas was trusted to take care of the disciples' money box, but he yielded to Satan and became a thief (John 12:6).
4. One day while one of the Lord's disciples poured her greatest treasure upon Him (a flask of precious ointment), Judas rebuked her and exclaimed, "Why this waste? Why was this ointment not sold...and given to the poor?" (Matt. 26:8; John 12:5-6). He did not say this because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief and wanted to steal the money. He did not love the Lord Jesus. He was a false disciple, a pretender, and a hypocrite.
5. Just before the Lord's death Judas let Satan into his heart and then made a deal with the priests to betray Jesus and deliver Him up to them for thirty pieces of silver (Matt. 26:15-16; Luke 22:3). When at the last supper the Lord told His disciples that one of them would betray Him (He did not say which one), they all fearfully asked, "I'm not the one, am I, Lord?" Judas pretentiously said, "I'm not the one, am I, Rabbi?" He knew he was, but he pretended he was not. Judas never called Jesus "Lord," only "Rabbi," or teacher.
6. Judas finally delivered up Jesus with a false kiss (Luke 22:48). Though he later regretted, he did not turn his heart to the Lord or ask for forgiveness. Rather, he hanged himself (Matt. 27:5).

SUBJECT: GOD’S CALLING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT: In the Gospels—Judas Iscariot, the False Disciple

SCRIPTURE: John 6:64, 70-71; 12:3-6; Matt. 26:1-5,14-16; Luke 21:37-38; 22:1-6; Matt. 26:17-25, 47-50; Luke 22:47-48; Mark 14:1-2, 10-11

AIM: To see that as God’s called ones we must be honest, true, and genuine. We should not be false; we should not be hypocrites or pretenders. We must be the same “inside” as what we show “outside”, for the Lord knows all things and nothing can be hidden from Him.

MEMORY VERSES: Psa. 139:1-2, 4, 23a, 24; Jer. 23:23-24

APPROACH: 1) Tell the children that today we have new words to learn. One is *hypocrite*. Write the word on the board. Does anyone know how to pronounce it? Does anyone know what it means? The other is *genuine*. Repeat the questions. 2) Make masks of brown paper bags or paper plates, with faces and words written on the “foreheads”, like HAPPY, FRIENDLY, CONCERNED, etc. Play with the children, putting the masks on you and on them, helping them to understand what *hypocrite* and *genuine* means.

The English word, *hypocrite* comes from the Greek word, *hupocrites*. In ancient times, Greek stage actors played different roles by using different masks. To change their roles, they would simply change their masks. By covering up their real faces with a mask they could pretend that they were someone else. These actors were called “hupocrites” or, in English, “hypocrites”. Thus, a hypocrite is a kind of actor, a pretender, someone who is false. The word *genuine* comes from the Latin word, *genuinus*. It means sincere, honest, or free from hypocrisy or pretense.

CONTENT: None of the twelve apostles that the Lord called was perfect. Peter was too outspoken. Thomas lacked faith—he even disbelieved the Lord’s resurrection! James and John were so “fiery” and impetuous that the Lord called them the “sons of thunder”. There are no perfect disciples, for the Lord calls us as we are. Yet, as we follow Him, we gradually become like Him.

Of the twelve apostles that the Lord chose, all were faithful to the Lord except one, Judas Iscariot. To have weaknesses is one thing, to be a false disciple is another. Although the Lord knew that Judas was a “devil”, who would one day betray Him (John 6:70-71), He knowingly chose Judas to be with Him. Having been so close to the Lord Jesus, Judas surely had no excuse for rejecting Him. It was his own choice.

Judas was trusted to take care of the disciples’ money box, but he yielded to Satan and became a thief (John 12:6). One day while one of the Lord’s disciples poured her greatest treasure upon Him (a flask of precious ointment) to anoint Him before His death, Judas said, “Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” He said this not because it mattered to him concerning the poor but because he was a thief—he “held the purse”, and carried off what was put into it (John 12:5-6). He was a pretender, a hypocrite and a liar.

Just before the Lord’s death, Judas let Satan into his heart and then made a deal with the chief priests to betray Jesus and deliver Him up to them for thirty pieces of silver (Matt. 26:15-16; Luke 22:3). When at the last supper, the Lord told His disciples that one of them would betray Him (He did not say which one), they all fearfully asked, “I’m not the one, am I, Lord?” Judas pretentiously said, “I not the one, am I, Rabbi?” He knew he was, but he pretended he was not.

Finally, Judas, in the garden on the night before the Lord’s crucifixion, delivered up Jesus with a false, pretentious kiss (Luke 22:48). After saying, “Rejoice, Rabbi”, he kissed the Lord affectionately (Matt. 26:49). Though he later regretted his actions, and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders (Matt. 27:3), he did not turn his heart to the Lord or ask for forgiveness. Rather, adding to his sins, he hanged himself (Matt. 27:5).

APPLICATION:

1. As God’s called ones we shouldn’t be false, we shouldn’t be hypocrites or pretenders, we shouldn’t put on “masks”—showing one thing on the outside but being something else on the inside. Some examples:

- a. At the last supper, Judas put on a “mask of innocence”, saying, “I’m not the one, am I, Rabbi?” when he knew he was. We shouldn’t put on a “mask of innocence”, like Judas. For example, our mother or teacher may discover some wrongdoing and ask, “Who did this?” We know that **we** did it, but we might reply, “Hmm, I don’t know. Did you ask the other kids?” We might even go so far as to blame or unrighteously

accuse someone else when we know that we are the guilty party. We should never pretend that we are innocent when we have done something wrong or point the finger at others—this is false and is a lie.

- b. In the garden, on the night of the Lord's death, Judas put on a false "mask of friendship", when he greeted the Lord affectionately with a kiss, but really intended to betray him. We shouldn't put on a false "mask of friendship". For example, we can be friendly to someone and even call him a friend, but then talk about him behind his back. Or, we compliment someone for their hairstyle, new shirt, etc., but then later laugh with others, "Did you see that new haircut!?" Or, we make friends with someone only because we want something from him—maybe he's smart and can help us with our schoolwork; or, maybe he always has a lot of money and buys candy that we like, or toys and games that we can play with.
- c. Judas wore a "mask of respect", calling the Lord Jesus, *Rabbi* (or Teacher). We shouldn't put on a mask of respect by being respectful to our teachers in their presence but complain about them to others or laugh at them or even call them names when they are not around.

Note: This does not mean that we should be disrespectful to any teacher. We should **always** show respect to our teachers. If we have a problem, we should first go to the Lord and pray. Then, the Lord may lead us to go to someone in authority to ask for help if the situation calls for it.

- d. We shouldn't put on a mask of following the Lord, like Judas, who never acknowledged Him as His Lord (there is no record in the Bible that Judas ever called the Lord Jesus, *Lord*). For example, in our prayer (especially in front of others), we may honor the Lord. Or, in front of our children's meeting teachers and classmates, we appear to be one of His disciples, following Him and loving Him. But, by our words and actions, at home, or in front of our friends at school, we are not really the Lord's disciples, following Him and loving Him.

2. As God's called ones we should be sincere, honest, true, and genuine. Some examples:

- a. We are sincere. If we are friends with someone we are friends because we like the person, not just what he has or what we can gain from him. We are honest in our relationships with others. We shouldn't put on a false mask of friendship or respect. In the case where we really don't like someone, we should pray—for ourselves and for that person. We should never show ourselves as one way when we are in front of a person and then speak or act evilly toward them when their back is turned. We are truthful. We shouldn't deceive others. We shouldn't pretend we are a certain way when we really are not, and we shouldn't pretend we know things or understand things when we really don't.

Note: To be honest and sincere and genuine doesn't mean that if we don't like someone or something we just express how we feel. We wouldn't tell someone, "I don't like you" or, "These cookies you made taste awful!" or, "What a funny haircut". We should never offend or hurt people. If we don't like someone, pray. Be as courteous as you can be in the meantime. If you don't like something someone has done for you or made for you, don't criticize. Be thankful and appreciative of the person's time and effort.

- b. We especially should be true and honest in our relationship with the Lord. May we never be false disciples pretending that we love Him and are following Him! We should never pretend we are what we're not. We should be honest with Him and with ourselves.