

## Bible Quiz

### **Was Judas, who betrayed Jesus, a faithful man or a traitor?**

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Question: Was Judas, who betrayed Jesus, a faithful man or a traitor?

Judas's betrayal of Jesus is described in the Bible as a betrayal, but whether he was a faithful man or a traitor depends on opinion and interpretation.

The reason why Judas betrayed Jesus

Lack of faith: Judas never acknowledged Jesus as God or Messiah as the other apostles did. He saw Jesus as a teacher, not a Savior. Judas is in charge of managing the team's finances, which shows that he has an interest in money. John 12:5-6 mentions that his greed for money was one reason for betraying Jesus. Judas may have hoped that Jesus would overthrow Roman rule and establish a new political order. When he discovers that Jesus will not do this, he may think that Jesus is not the real Messiah.

Was Judas a faithful or a traitor?

Adulterer: From the biblical description, Judas's betrayal of Jesus is seen as a betrayal, which is often associated with the image of an adulterer. He betrayed Jesus to the Roman authorities for thirty pieces of silver, an act that led to Jesus' crucifixion.

The Faithful: However, in the Gospel of Judas, Judas's motives for betraying Jesus are reinterpreted. Judas acted according to Jesus' instructions to help Jesus break free from the bondage of the flesh and release his divinity as soon as possible. This view portrays Judas as a faithful disciple who acted according to the will of Jesus. Whether Judas was a faithful man or a traitor depended on the interpretation of the Bible or other documents. The conventional wisdom sees him as a traitor, but another may be the view of a faithful person.

Judas did show signs of remorse and repentance after betraying Jesus, but these signs did not quite correspond to true repentance. According to the Bible, Judas felt deep remorse after seeing Jesus sentenced, and tried to return the thirty pieces of silver he had received to the chief priests and elders, confessing that he had "betrayed innocent blood" (Matthew 27:3–4).

However, this remorse did not develop into true repentance. Instead of seeking God's forgiveness or reconciliation with Jesus, Judas chose despair and eventually committed suicide (Matthew 27:5). This behavior is seen as false repentance because true repentance requires a change of heart and return to God, which Judas failed to do. Thus, Judas did have a record of regret, but that regret did not translate into true repentance.

The betrayal of Jesus by Judas is a key part of the Crucifixion in the Bible, and the occurrence of this event did have a profound impact on the content of Matthew's gospel. Judas' betrayal of Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecies, such as Zechariah 11:12-13, which emphasizes the coherence between prophecy and fulfillment in the Bible. Judas's betrayal marks the beginning of Jesus' crucifixion, which is a central part of the entire gospel about Jesus' death and resurrection. Judas's betrayal was part of God's plan, and this event enabled the death and resurrection of Jesus to be fulfilled, thus fulfilling the mission of redemption. Had it not been for Judas's betrayal of Jesus, Matthew's gospel might have lacked this crucial event, and the progress and theological significance of the whole story would have been very different. Judas's rebellion was not only a human betrayal, but also part of God's plan, which makes the Gospel of Matthew richer and more complete.

In the absence of Judas's betrayal, Jesus' arrest and crucifixion may need to be accomplished by other means. This may alter the development and theological interpretation of the whole story, for example: there may be other characters present to bring about the arrest of Jesus. Old Testament prophecies may need to be fulfilled in other ways. The theological and symbolic meaning of the whole story is subject to change.

However, these hypothetical scenarios are not recorded in the Bible, and Judas's betrayal remains an integral part of Matthew's gospel.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Peter denies Jesus three times and Judas betrays Jesus, with different motives and outcomes. Judas was motivated primarily by greed and disappointment in Jesus. He received thirty pieces of silver and was probably disappointed that Jesus had failed to fulfill his expectations of a political savior. Peter's motive was out of fear. Fearing arrest and persecution, he denied his relationship with Jesus in front of the crowd. Judas's betrayal led to Jesus' arrest and subsequent trial, scourging, and crucifixion. Judas felt remorse afterwards and eventually committed suicide. Peter's denial led to pain and remorse in his heart. He remembered Jesus' prophecy after the rooster crowed, and went out to weep bitterly, but after Jesus' resurrection, he was forgiven and born again. Judas's betrayal was part of God's plan, fulfilling Old Testament prophecy and showing human weakness and rebellion. Peter's denial shows the weakness of human nature, but it also shows the possibility of repentance and forgiveness. Peter's experience became a lesson that emphasized the importance of faith and the need to rely on God. Judas's actions were not forgiven, and his life ended in tragedy. Peter's denial was forgiven, and he stood again after Jesus' resurrection as one of the leaders of the early church.

Judas's betrayal of Jesus and Peter's denial of Jesus are two events with different motives, consequences, and theological significance. Judas's betrayal was part of God's plan and led to a tragic end; Peter's denial shows the weakness of human nature, but it is also forgiven and born again.

We pray

Dear Lord,

Lord, whatever we say, do, or neglect our faults cast a shadow over our relationship with you. We know that only your love and forgiveness can free our hearts from the heavy shackles and give us true freedom. Help us to learn to forgive others as you do. When our hearts are filled with anger, resentment, or the pain of the past that we can't let go, may your love guide us to let go of those hurts, let go of our anger, and learn to forgive the wrongs of others. Because it is only when we are willing to forgive that we can truly feel your salvation from heaven. Lord, we cannot be freed from sin by our own strength, but in Your grace we are given hope and born again. Give us the strength to lead us on the path of righteousness and love, to live out your grace and truth wherever we go. Give us a humble, loving heart to help us pass on Your grace to others and be messengers of peace and love.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.