

We've been walking with Jesus toward Easter and along the way, on the first day of Lent, we followed him into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil, himself.

We noted that Jesus handled every temptation with what the Scriptures said.

Then,

on the day before Palm Sunday,

We met a tax collector named Zacchaeus.

He extorted money from his own people but after meeting Jesus, his whole life changed.

He said he would return everything he took four times as much.

That's because when your heart changes, your life changes.

Still,

On the day before Palm Sunday, in the house of Zacchaeus, Jesus told a parable about a nobleman who gave minas, small amounts of money to his slaves to go and do business with them.

The ones who did were rewarded and the one who did nothing with what he had was chastised.

This parable speaks of gaining and losing rewards in heaven and Jesus told it because the people were expecting His Kingdom to come at any moment.

That's why, on the next day, the people laid down their robes and palms for Jesus to ride in on, treating Him as a coming king.

And now,

Things begin to take a turn.

With all the good Jesus did and came to do, there are some who wanted to kill Him.

**Lu 22:1** *Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was approaching.*

Jesus came to Jerusalem at Passover because that is when the Passover lamb was sacrificed.

The first Passover was held in Egypt when the Angel of death "passed over" the Hebrew houses that had the lamb's blood on the sides and top of the door.

**v.22** *The chief priests and the scribes were seeking how they might put Him to death; for they were afraid of the people.*



The multitude of people actually loved or at least accepted Jesus. When we think of the crowd that cried Crucify Him, it was more a mob and I don't believe it was the same people but those instigated by the religious leaders.

The religious leaders were afraid that a riot might break out if they arrested Jesus in public.

Remember how we said in:

*II Chr 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.*

I wonder if Satan does the same.

**v.3** *And Satan entered into Judas who was called Iscariot, belonging to the number of the twelve.*

Here;

A person, man or woman, can be an instrument of good or evil.

Satan could not have entered into Judas unless Judas gave him some kind of entry.

William Barclay said;

"There is no handle on the outside of the door of the human heart. It must be opened from within."

What was it about Judas that he opened the door and let the devil slip in?

Well,

We can find a few things about his character.

And listen carefully to see if you share the same affections.

According to Jn 12, the week before Jesus rode into Jerusalem, He dined at the home of His friends, Lazarus, Mary and Martha.

Mary brought out an alabaster vial of perfume, very expensive, and anointed His feet.

The whole house was filled with the fragrance.

But wait!

*v.4 But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, \*said,*

*v.5 "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor people?"*

Oh, Judas, you are so compassionate to think of the poor; not really.

*v.6 Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.*

At their last meal together, right before Jesus' arrest;

In 13, Jesus told Judas to do what he planned to do and when he left;

*v.29 For some were supposing, because Judas had the money box...*

Jesus told him to go buy more food.

Judas was a poster child for what Paul said to Timothy in:

*I Tim 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

After Satan entered into Judas:

**v.4** *And he went away and discussed with the chief priests and officers how he might betray Him to them.*

**v.5** *They were glad and agreed to give him money.*

Matthew records that when Judas went to the priests, he said;

*What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?" And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him. Mt 26:15*

**v.6** *So he consented, and began seeking a good opportunity to betray Him to them apart from the crowd.*

This was Judas' open door to let the devil in.

There are other doors as well:

An open door is anything evil that you give your heart to:

- Money
- Sex & pornography
- Drugs & alcohol
- Some Eastern religions

When you give your mind over to something, it creates a vacuum that will quickly be invaded and filled up with darkness if you keep out the light.

God said to Joshua when he took over the leadership of Israel:  
*This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. Jos 1:8*

Ps 1 reminds us;

v.1 ... *his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.*

And then,

Apparently Satan left him after he used him.

Mt 27:3 *Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,*

"remorse" regret, sorrow

II Cor 7:9 *I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance;*

So Judas regretted what he did:

v.4 *saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to that yourself!"*

v.5 *And he threw the pieces of silver into the temple sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself.*

Judas turned on the Lord, or should I say, he replaced the Lord with something else. In his case money. And it didn't end very well for him. Let us ever be careful what we expose our heart to because it could lead us to death, but hopefully, we want to be led to life.