

**THE FACE OF EVIL**  
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John 13:18-30

1. What does evil look like?
2. Unfortunately evil personifies itself in human beings who, like Judas, appear to be anything but evil.
3. Last week we saw Jesus, who personified the love of God, demonstrating humility and what it means to be a servant by washing the disciples' feet.
4. While Jesus was washing the disciple's feet Judas was plotting his next move as he planned how to carry out his devil incited plot to betray Jesus to the Jewish and Roman authorities.
5. Where Jesus was and is the personification of love Judas was, and continues to be, the personification of evil.
6. It's important for us to think about this issue in light of the fact that Jesus warned us to be aware of the danger we face.
  - a. "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd (wary, wise) as serpents and innocent as doves." Matthew 10:16
  - b. "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves." Matthew 7:15
7. The writer of Proverbs shared an important bit of wisdom when he wrote, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy." Proverbs 27:6

NOTE: Judas chose to betray Jesus with a kiss. Mark 14:43-45

Immediately while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs, who were from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. 44 Now he who was betraying Him had given them a signal, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him and lead Him away under guard." 45 After coming, Judas immediately went to Him, saying, "Rabbi!" and kissed Him.

### **I. Evil personified.**

- A. When Jesus revealed that one of the disciples would betray Him the disciples began looking at one another and were at a loss to know which one of them He was talking about.
- B. In other words they did not have a clue as to who Jesus was talking about.
- C. Judas was a wolf in sheep's clothing who had not given himself away in spite of the fact:
  1. That Jesus had said early in His ministry that one of the disciples was a devil (adversary). John 6:69-71
    - 69 "We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God." 70 Jesus answered them, "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?" 71 Now He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him."
  2. That Judas was a thief. John 12:1-8

Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 So they made Him a supper there,

and Martha was serving; but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him. 3 Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, 5 "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor people?" 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.** 7 Therefore Jesus said, "Let her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of My burial. 8 " For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have Me."

3. That Judas was open to and controlled by the Devil. John 13:2

D. Those who are the most useful to the devil are those who most resemble genuine Christians and followers of Christ.

1. Matt 7:21-23

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.

22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

2. 2 Cor 11:13-15

13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself (masquerades) as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves (masquerade) as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

E. Even after Jesus identified Judas as the traitor and sent him away the other disciples did not suspect him. 25-30

## II. Evil confronted.

A. We learn something of the nature of unbelief and evil in that it can persist in the very presence of Christ.

B. Judas was witness to everything that the other disciples were witnesses to, and yet his life was unaffected.

C. We have already seen that many are going to spend eternity in Hell even though they profess to be Christians, believe that they are Christians, and outwardly serve the Lord.

D. Notice how Jesus dealt with Judas.

1. He chose him to be one of the twelve.

2. He warned him early on by revealing that one of the twelve was a devil or adversary.

3. He demonstrated God's power in his presence, gave him opportunities for ministry by sending him out on mission trips, and by electing him treasurer of the group.

4. Even as He washed the disciples' feet He said, "Not all of you are clean," because He knew the one who was betraying Him. 10-11

5. He became grieved and clearly stated that one of the disciples would betray Him.

6. He handed Judas a morsel of bread and in doing so was saying, "I know who you are and what you are about to do."
- E. What opportunities Judas had, but in spite of them all he persisted in unbelief.

### **III. Evil excluded.**

- A. I am not sure that any of us can truly enter into the drama of the moment described here.
  1. Judas knew that Jesus knew.
  2. Jesus, grieved and troubled in spirit, extended ministry and personal attention to Judas.
  3. Judas accepted the ministry and personal attention but rejected Jesus.
  4. Satan actually entered Judas.
  5. Jesus looked at Satan, incarnated in the body of Judas, and said, "What you do, do quickly."
  6. At which point Judas left.
- B. The time came in Jesus' relationship with His disciples when He had to exclude the one who was not really one with Him.
- C. The same is true of all of us sitting here today. In the Parable of the Wheat and Tares Jesus taught that the visible church would be made up of true and false believers, and that a day of exclusion would one day come. Matt 13:36-43

Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." 37 And He said, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, 38 and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one; 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. 40 "So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. 41 " The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, 42 and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 "Then THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

### **APPLICATION**

1. Having used Judas for his purposes the Devil left him to deal with the aftermath of his choices and actions. Matt 27:3-5

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, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to that yourself!" 5 And he threw the pieces of silver into the temple sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself.
2. Acts 1:25 says, "Judas turned aside to go to his own place."
3. Are you going to Jesus' place or the Devil's place?