

## **The Authority of the Righteous, Part 2**

### *The Rise and Fall of Judas Iscariot*

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Wednesday, January 12, 2022

#### **Opening Summary**

Jesus transferred His authority to every believer. But can you lose your authority? In this study, you will discover someone who once personally cast out devils and laid hands on the sick, but he eventually lost his authority. This is a lesson about judging yourself so that you, a Christian, do not lose your authority. Rather, before it's too late, Christians can repent of their actions and be reconciled to God.

- I. You can lose your authority.
  - A. Judas was an apostle of God who lost his authority.
  - B. Until the betrayal of Jesus, the name Judas was a very common name. He was distinguished by his hometown of Iscariot, thus Judas Iscariot.
  
- II. What happened to Judas can happen to you.
  - A. Luke 6:13: Judas had been given great authority (Luke 6:16).
  - B. Mark 3:14-15, 19: Ordained means appointed. Jesus called Judas to preach.
    1. Judas laid hands on the sick and they were healed, and he cast out devils.
    2. Judas had great authority from God Almighty.
  
- III. Acts 1:16-17: Without question, he was no different than the other apostles.
  - A. John 6:64: Everyone has a weakness they must keep in check, and Jesus knows it.
  - B. God gives everyone chances, even though He knows how it will turn out.
  
- IV. 1 Cor. 11:30-31: What was Judas' problem?
  - A. His problem was coveting and loving money. He didn't judge himself about those issues.
  - B. Many in the church made wrong choices that opened the door to the enemy.
  - C. *I'm not saying* a sick person is demon possessed. We may unknowingly open doors.
  - D. Judas did not judge himself.
  
- V. 1 Cor. 11:30: *Judge* (Gk.: *diakrino*) means *separate thoroughly from, withdraw from*.
  - A. What is the result of not judging oneself (1 Pet. 4:17)?
  - B. Like children, more is expected from the oldest than the youngest (Luke 12:48).
  - C. More is expected of Christians than is expected of the world.
  
- VI. Acts 1:25: Judas fell by transgression. Transgression means to go contrary to God.
  - A. Judas violated God's command because he didn't judge himself.

- B. Mark 4:13: This parable describes Judas' problem (Luke 8:11-15, Mat. 13:3-9).
  - C. Mark 4:18-19: These things crowd the Word out.
  - D. Judas' authority was diminished because he would not judge himself.
  - E. Even though he physically walked with Jesus, witnessing miracles, he fell.
  - F. Faith doesn't come by seeing miracles, the spectacular.
  - G. God does miracles in your every day. It's just not shiny.
  - H. Mat. 10:1-8: Judas participated in miracles. Yet he stopped believing God (Exo. 20:17).
- VII. Luke 21:1: Jesus saw rich men put their money in the treasury. Judas was the treasurer.
- A. Having a coveting problem, Judas should've asked Jesus not to make him treasurer.
  - B. Had Judas been honest with himself, he wouldn't have turned out that way.
- VIII. John 12:37: They saw the miracles, but they still didn't believe.
- A. Mark 4 tells us three out of four people who heard the Word were not good ground.
  - B. Affliction, persecution, etc. chokes the Word in many, because they don't consider the Word highest authority in their life. It's all about your reaction to the Word preached.
  - C. Those with are heart that is good ground are those who hear, receive, believe, speak the Word and act like it is so.
- IX. John 6:35, 41-43: You don't have to understand how it works for it to work.
- A. John 6:44-71: Judas was not the person he was when Jesus chose him.
  - B. The unbelief was satan's door to enter Judas.
- X. When did this occur? Judas was with Jesus for the duration of His ministry.
- A. John 12:1-6: Judas spoke up about the expensive ointment.
  - B. Everyone has something that can cause you to trip. Separate yourself from it.
  - C. Example: When I was a young pastor, the church members wanted to witness at the bar near our church. Some of them had just been delivered from drinking alcohol. So, I said "no." Someone delivered from alcohol shouldn't go into a bar.
- XI. John 13:21-27: Not judging himself opened the door for satan to take total control. That's the final stage of not judging yourself.
- A. John 13:2: Satan gave Judas an assignment to betray Jesus. He sold out.
  - B. Everyone is assigned by someone. Satan can assign someone to destroy you.
  - C. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ sold out the kingdom of God for cash, just like Judas. Then judgment happened worldwide. They supported policies contrary to the scripture.
  - D. Abortion is a money issue.
  - E. Supporting such policies diminishes your authority until it's all gone, just like Judas.
  - F. Becoming offended at the Word is an indication that you have slipped.
- XII. Mat. 26:41: Watch means to pay attention. When you hear news; ask questions.
- A. This is an overly simplistic example: It's like my four-year-old grandchild telling me he knows more about life than I do.
  - G. That's what we do with God. We say "I think..." God knows far more that we know.

- H. It is dumb for a 4-year-old to listen to someone who hates his grandfather. And it is dumb for us to listen to the devil who hates God.
  
- B. Acts 1:16-20: Judas committed suicide (Psa. 41:9, 69:25).
  - A. When you're taken by the enemy, right will be wrong and wrong will be right.
  - B. When satan was done with him, satan fled from him, and Judas woke up.
  
- C. Acts 1:16-20, 25: If you don't fulfil your assignment, someone else will take your place.
  - A. Mark 14:21: Jesus said it would have been better for this man if he were never born.
  - B. Judas went from a place of high authority to hell because he didn't judge himself.
  
- D. First use your authority for yourself.
  - A. You have authority.
  - B. Don't allow satan to assign you to go against someone. Judge yourself.
  - C. You can be a little Jesus in the earth (Mark 16:15-18, Luke 10:19).
  - D. Choose the Bible way, even if you don't see why you should. God is smarter than you.
  - E. It's like Job when he had a pity party. God corrected him (Job 38-41).
  - F. Job repented and prayed for his friends who blamed God for Job's problems (Job 42:10).
  - G. God blessed Job with twice what he lost (Job 42:10).
  - H. With God, you can repent and come back to Him before it's too late (1 John 1:9).

### **Closing Summary**

Jesus transferred His authority to every believer. But we have just seen that you can lose your authority if you do not judge yourself concerning things that cause you to sin. Decide today to make the Word of God the highest authority in your life. Rather than allowing satan to use you to be against others, let God use you to be a blessing to people. Take that thing serious that easily causes you to fall and judge yourself so that you, a Christian, do not lose your authority. Before it's too late, repent of your actions and be reconciled to God. He loves you so much, that He welcomes you with open arms when you decide to turn to Him.