

RUSSELL SANDERS

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JUDAS ISCARIOT PART 3

THE LOVE OF MONEY

As Judas had walked about three years with Jesus, he knew that Jesus was the Anointed One, the Messiah. So, why did he sell out the Master?

Judas had a stronghold gripping him. It was his love [lust] of money. Strongholds are powerful controlling forces. When he learned that he could get paid for exposing Jesus to the temple authorities, he took the money and brought the Temple guards to capture Jesus.

Thirty pieces of silver were not chump change. Let us compare it to today's value. Our U.S. billion one dollar silver eagle is valued close to thirty-five dollars. So, thirty coins [pieces of silver] at \$35 each would come to \$1,050.00, which is a tempting sum. It might have had even greater value in their days.

Judas had seen Jesus miraculously heal many people. Jesus had restored lame limbs and had raised the dead. Judas, himself, had performed many of those same miracles when Jesus sent out the twelve and again when he sent out the seventy. They were given power to do all the same works that Jesus had done. Judas had not simply seen the works; he had also done those works himself through the power Jesus had delegated to the twelve and the seventy. Yet, in his moment of weakness, he yielded to the lust for money.

Judas was the treasurer for the group. His weakness had led him to pilfer [steal] money from the group for his own pocket all through Jesus' ministry. He was too weak to resist the stronghold.

Some of us may have an unrighteous stronghold also. It takes spiritual deliverance to break such a stronghold. We must give it entirely to Jesus to be free of it. It is only through Jesus' mighty power that strongholds are broken. Strongholds are brought onto us by demonic influence. It is a spiritual battle that grips our natural bodies and minds.

When we repent and yield ourselves to Jesus, his mighty power will set us free.