

We cannot say that God made Judas betray Jesus, were this true the Bible would hardly say that Satan entered him.



Were Judas' sins beyond forgiveness?

And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, ... Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven... Matthew 12:31-32



Jesus is contrasting these sins with the sin against the Holy Spirit, of which Judas is not accused. It seems clear that Judas would have been forgiven. The big question is did he come to the place of asking forgiveness?



From what we have seen is it possible that Judas did repent and consequently was saved? Did Judas make it to heaven?

It is possible to make such a case from the passages we have studied. The biggest voice against this is John 17:12.



While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. John 17:12



The question here is what does destruction does it mean his fall, his suicide or eternal damnation? What do you think?

If Judas teaches us anything, it is that we must guard our hearts and not allow them to stray from a simple love and trust for our Lord.
So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! 1 Corinthians 10:12



How has your view of Judas changed over these studies? How do you see him now?

We have villainised Judas to disassociate ourselves from him, for fear that what was in him, maybe is us. Instead, we would do well to examine our own hearts and deal with any greed, pride or bitterness we find. We have to guard ourselves especially when we find Jesus is not doing what we want Him to do.



They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely not I, Lord?" Matthew 26:22

*O Judas don't you come to close for I fear that I might see
That traitors look upon your face might look too much like me,
For just like you, I sold the Lord and often for much less
And like a filthy traitor I betrayed him with a kiss.
Michael Card.*

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Judas and Satan



Thirty pieces of silver.

Read Matthew 26:15, 27:3; 9

Jesus betrays Judas for thirty pieces of silver. The Gospel writers find this very significant.

Read Exodus 21:32 The price of a slave;



Read Zechariah 11:11-12
Read Jeremiah 32:7-9



Matthew puts together two historically unconnected passages. (the New Testament does this in other places as well, it was a rabbinic technique). Jeremiah refers frequently to the potters' field 18:2; 19:2. Judas in returning the money to the temple did what Zechariah did, the priests in buying the potters field did what Jeremiah did. It is also possible that Matthew is quoting Jeremiah 19:4b. Talking about the same field he says, they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent. Jeremiah 19:1-13 seems to fit better. There are certainly parallels between both passages, but it is not easy to understand the exact fulfilment. It seems that the intention is not for us to make a direct one to one connection but rather to follow a line of thinking.

It has been suggested that the fifteen shekels of silver and homer and a lethek of barley, that Hosea uses to buy back Gommer also equates to 30 pieces of silver Hosea 3:2.



Silver in scripture often speaks of atonement. Lives were redeemed with silver. This leaves us with three connections; slavery, atonement and redemption.
How do these connect in the crucifixion of Jesus?

Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. Luke 22:3

As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. "What you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus told him, John 13:27

Despite whatever motive we may have found in Judas for betraying the Lord, he was incapable of acting alone. Satan entered him. Nor was it just a demon that oppressed him, but Satan himself.



How literally should we take this? Satan in Hebrew means accuser.
Does Satan here mean Satan or just, temptation or the forces of darkness in general terms?

Was Judas capable of resisting Satan?



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If Satan was involved does this mean Judas was not responsible for his actions?

One could say he was unable to resist him because he had left himself open to attack. It was Judas sins and wrong attitude toward Jesus, that gave Satan a foothold. It was Satan that tempted Adam and Eve, and yet God still held them responsible.



What did Satan hope to achieve?

We are in the ironic position of it being the will of our heavenly Father that Jesus should die on the Cross and that of our infernal opponent. This has been the topic of much debate. It is clear that Satan wanted Jesus to go to the Cross, but he did not want the result that it brought. Maybe Satan thought Jesus would fail this great test.



If you were Satan would you want Jesus to go to the Cross?

There are several possibilities



Certainly, he thought that he stood to win, that Jesus death was playing into his plans. The resurrection must have come as a nasty surprise. Perhaps Satan had totally misunderstood what God was doing.



It is also possible that he just wanted to inflict pain on Jesus knowing that he would ultimately fail.



There is a more radical possibility here. Jesus is God, but while on earth he is reliant on the Holy Spirit for His power and knowledge. Hence His knowledge, even self-knowledge is limited. If Jesus once sinned in His life then the cross does not work, Jesus is not resurrected and some part of the Trinity is broken. God fails. So in these circumstances is the resurrection an inevitability? Probably not. There is real risk involved in Jesus going to the cross and a real chance that Satan will win.



In Matthew 15:26 Jesus calls a Canaanite woman a dog. **Was this sin? What if it was?**

All it takes is one unknown sin and Satan wins. Was this a risk Satan was willing to take?



The Big Problem

One of the big problems behind the story of Judas is the argument over predestination and eternal security. I.e. that Judas had no choice as to his actions, therefore he cannot be held responsible for them. And, that once a person has truly committed themselves to Christ, it is impossible for them to fall. These are two bigger subjects do discuss in full now, but we do have to have a quick look.



Was Judas a true follower of Christ? What is the evidence both ways?

We cannot judge, he gave every indication that he was, Jesus called him an apostle. No one guessed he was the traitor. The only things that stand against him are John's revelation that he was a thief and his act of betrayal.



Read Romans 9:14-23

But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my miraculous signs and wonders in Egypt, Exodus 7:3, 4:21, 14:4, 14:7



This passage describes how God hardened Pharaoh's heart, in order to use Pharaoh's rebellion for God's purposes. Paul is adamant that God has the right to do this. However, when you read the Exodus account you discover that at first, it is Pharaoh who hardens his own heart and only later that God hardens it. It is almost as if God endorses Pharaoh's choice to have a hard heart.



What similarities are there between Pharaoh and Judas?

We have seen that Judas actions were pre-ordained, Jesus knew from the beginning who would betray Him, and He described his actions as necessary.

Romans 9 never fitted anyone as well as it fits Judas



What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—prepared for destruction? What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory — Romans 9:22-23



How does this apply to Judas and to us?

Was it possible for Judas to avoid his fate?

Did God make Judas betray Jesus?



Do the verses we have studied over the last three weeks make Judas sound like a pawn acting against his will or someone choosing his own actions?

Is it possible Judas will and Satan's will just coincide?



If so then this would tend to make it look like Judas was being forced or had no control over his actions.



Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me. Psalm 41:9

Judas actions were prophesied in Scripture in several places.



Does this mean it was inevitable that Judas would do what he did?

Does this mean that it was inevitable someone would do this?

This is complicated but of huge importance in the whole free will debate. God foreknowing something is not the same as God causing something.



When we say; "I could not help myself" or "I could not stop myself" Is this strictly true?

Why do we say this?



We are left with two choices, either Judas was a special case, in which event there is very little we can say, as we do not understand the dispensation under which he lived. This is a view held by those adhering to one of the better understandings of free will. Which describes Judas as "collateral damage." The argument goes that even in a world where there is free will, for the sake of salvation some things have to happen and someone has to cause them.



The other option is that he lived by the same set of rules as the rest of us. He could have resisted Satan, but he was already too weak from backsliding. If he repented then he was forgiven, if he didn't he wasn't. He was the same as us.

Both Judas and Pharaoh had sufficiently twisted hearts to open themselves up to be objects of wrath.