

How does Acts describe the money used?

This could be the money Judas embezzled, the field an early acquisition. If so there is no problem, two lots of money, two fields with very different descriptions. As for the method of Judas death, it is possible that Judas fell from the rope.

How do you feel about Judas? Anger, hatred, sympathy, sorrow?



Why did Jesus need Judas?

If you remove Judas entirely from the account does Jesus still die?

That sounds like a strange question. Why did it have to happen this way? Jesus consistently said He would be betrayed, the Scriptures also predicted it. Why could Jesus not just be arrested?

Judas and his betrayal stand for something. Who killed Jesus, was it Judas, the Priests, every Jew that ever lived, or the Italians who did the deed?

Who should we blame for Jesus death?

Who did Jesus say was responsible for his death? John 10:18; 19:11-12;



For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 1 Corinthians 15:3
The Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

The only Christ killer I can point the finger at is me. I am the Judas, it was my sin that betrayed the Lord. When we look at Judas, we are supposed to realise that it was our actions that caused Jesus to die. We are not supposed to pass the blame.



The Examining Priest.

It is well understood that Jesus fulfilled the Passover festival, with its deliverance for the land of sin.

For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 1 Corinthians 5:7

The animal lived with the family for four days, Exodus 12:6. The lamb or goat had to be without spot or blemish. It was the priests' job to examine the animal and declare it clean. For Jesus this refers to purity from sin, the only human never to sin.



Who declared Jesus clean?

The Priests were accusing him of blasphemy. Pilot did, but he was a gentile and not a priest, he didn't count.



Judas said
"I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility." Matthew 27:4

Judas had been with Jesus from the beginning and he declared him clean. So Judas, in fact, fulfilled an important role. He validated Jesus sacrifice.

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Judas and the Priests



"We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!" Matthew 20:18-19



Read

Matthew 26:3-5
Mark 14:1-2
Matthew 26:14-16
Mark 14:10-11
Luke 22:1-6



According to Mark, the priests offered Judas money.

What part do you think greed played in Judas mind?



What does Luke say prompted Judas actions? Luke 22:3

What does this mean?

Why did the priests need Judas help?

Some have suggested it was because they did not know Jesus well enough to ensure arresting the right person. This is very unlikely, it had never been a problem for them before! Another question reveals the answer.

The high priest has already tried to arrest Jesus.



Read John 7:32, 45-47.

What happened?

Did they have any problem finding Jesus?



Read Matthew 21:46 cf Matthew 26:4-4

What were the dangers of arresting Jesus?

The passages above specify that the priests were afraid to arrest Jesus, for fear of the crowd rioting. Someone who knew Jesus actions intimately and could provide an opportunity to arrest Jesus quietly, would have been of great benefit to them. John 18:2 eludes to this inside information.



What time did the priest say would be unwise to arrest Jesus?

When did they arrest Jesus?



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Jesus ends up being arrested at exactly the time the Priest say they do not what to arrest him. This conflict is one of the fundamental factors between the lines of the gospel accounts. Jesus was arrested at the worst possible time. Long before the priests had their preparation in place. This explains the frenzied activity, the trial by night, the early morning Sanhedrin and the problems with Pilate.

1 The most likely reason is the words Jesus speaks at the last supper. Judas came to them the night of the Last Supper and told them that Jesus was morose, he was talking about dying (read the account). If they moved now, he would not resist, nor would the other disciples. This was the time to act there, might not be another opportunity.

2 This explains the second reason the priests needed Judas. The Priests had tried to arrest Jesus before and failed. John 7:32, 8:58, 10:39, Luke 4:30. They could not afford to fail again, if they did, it would backfire on them seriously with the crowds. Jesus had even raised the dead, they could not deny His miracles and there was a real fear that He would prove unarrestable. Where would that then leave them?

3 Thirdly, the entire Jewish justice system was witness orientated, Witness brought the charges, arrested the person, questioned them and if guilty of death were the first to throw a stone. Two witnesses were needed, but maybe Judas was intended for this role. If so he only fulfilled the first part of it. The bottom line is that the person making the arrest is also going to be the key witness against the accused.

How glad the Priests would have been to have one of Jesus own disciples act as a witness against him.

? **Read Matthew 26:47-50; Mark 14:43-46 Luke 22:47-48, John 18:1-4**
Why a kiss?

! It is what didn't happen next that is interesting. Judas played no subsequent part in the trial of Jesus. This is astonishing and completely contrary to what we expect. All of this explains the major problems the high priest has in finding credible. The Priests star witness is for some reason unusable. This must have been a major blow to their plans.

? **Why did the priests not use him as a witness?**
Was he unreliable, unable, unwilling?

? **In the end, what was Judas actually responsible for?**
If he had not done his part, how would it have changed things?

✓ **Read Matthew 27:1-5**
It is the morning after Jesus arrest.
What is his legal status?

Jesus has been found guilty by the highest Jewish court, they now need the Roman authority to endorse this verdict and carry it out.

When Judas... saw that Jesus was condemned.. v3

? **What else did he think was going to happen?**
What was Judas' attitude?
What do you think was going through his head?

'I have sinned,' he said, 'for I have betrayed innocent blood.' v4

? **Did Judas acknowledge his sin? v4**
Is remorse the same a repentance?
Did Judas repent?

We do not know whether Judas was truly repentant, we cannot know. Throwing the money into the temple was a dramatic act and the best indication of the depth of Judas' feelings.

We will consider this more next week.

There is a worst condition than Judas', to sin and be so hard in your heart as to feel nothing.

? **We have a fairly clear idea of the cause and effect that Judas had in mind. Is the evidence open to other interpretation?**
Is it possible that Judas thought Jesus would be acquitted?
Is it possible that Judas thought he was carrying out Jesus wishes? John 13:27

It has been suggested that Judas plan was to force Jesus hand, to make him act radically, To make him conform to Judas' plans for him, plans of power and fame. Plans of rebellion against Rome. To be the kingly Messiah that the people wanted. He wanted Him to be like hi namesake Judas Maccabeaus.

? **Do you think this is possible?**
Why did he hang himself?

X People usually kill themselves because they can see no future. It seems that the depth of Judas guilt was more than he could bear. He could see no way out and no way back. Even if he asked for forgiveness, it is clear he did not appropriate it. (that does not mean it was not given, or could not have been given.)

Some other theories He thought his death would somehow help acquit Jesus. Many in the 2nd and 3rd century taught Judas hung himself to get to Hades ahead of Jesus and meet Him there because he knew He (Jesus) had entered His Kingdom through death. (Origin, Theophanes, Theophylact, etc.)

What happened next

? **Read Matthew 27:6-10 and Acts 1:18-19**
What happened to the money?
Who bought the field?

This is often pointed to as one of the most glaring contradictions within the Gospels. (Acts is a continuation of Luke).

How long did Judas have to buy the field?

At most one week, one of the busiest weeks of the year. Was this enough time to buy a field? This is assuming that they paid in advance! Something that is not likely. It is highly questionable whether Judas had time to buy the field.