

Did Judas Have to Sin?

By

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Who is he?

- Raised in extraordinary times
- Trained by a renowned teacher
- Saw many miracles take place
- Used by Satan
- He had serious character flaws
- He was a thief and a liar
- He sold out his best friend
- Rather than repenting he hanged himself

Gospel of Judas

- A manuscript discovered in the 1970's
- Written in 2nd century and copied in the 4th century A.D.
- Just now published by National Geographic.
- It is an authentic 4th century copy of 2nd century fiction.

Who wrote it?

- The seller, Frieda Nussberger thinks Judas did.
 - He said, “I had a mission. Judas was asking me to do something for him. It’s more than a mission, now that I think of it. I think I was chosen by Judas to rehabilitate him.... He was leading me, pulling the strings to put me on the right path.”
- No scholar believes that Judas wrote it!
- Many uninspired books like this exist.

Brother Calvin Schlabach wrote:

- Judas-advocates make it sound as though there were scores of equally valid “gospels” all vying for acceptance in the Bible.
- They speak of it as a veritable biblical beauty contest, and some “gospels” lost out in the finals, being narrowly voted out by a politically motivated panel behind closed doors.
- Instead, Christians had always accepted a limited number of authenticated books, and when others popped up, they failed the test of authenticity. Forgeries were always rejected.

Brother Calvin Schlabach wrote:

- The church did not decide what books got in—they simply recognized and identified what was authentic, as a child might identify its mother.
- The “Gospel of Judas” was never in the running.
- This ancient work of fiction reflects the beliefs of a peculiar little group (Gnostics) that was never a part of N.T. Christianity.

Gospel of Judas is a work of fiction

- It has no apostolic authorship.
- Its source is a fringe element, not the mainstream.
- It differs stylistically. It is a “sayings” gospel.
- It differs doctrinally. For example:
 - Jesus laughs at the worship of God.
 - Jesus seeks to escape the prison of flesh.
 - Judas is hero; the Eleven are wrong.

Contrary to "Judas," the Bible says:

- Jesus died, not in order to escape the prison of flesh, but as sacrifice for our sins (1 Cor. 15:3).
- Judas was a traitor, not a hero (Mk. 14:43-46).

What was its purpose?

- It is a Gnostic text
 - The Gnostics were a heresy then and now.
 - They focused on “knowledge” – that salvation came through “secret knowledge” Jesus gave to the “inner circle.”
 - They believed flesh/material is inherently evil.
 - Cainite Gnostics honored and praised the Serpent in Eden, Cain, the Sodomites, Korah, and Judas. They are like those who idolize Hitler today.

Why did he betray Jesus? His character

- Covetous (Jno. 12:6)
 - Paul warned: “But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition” (1 Tim. 6:9)
 - Remember:
 - Achan? (Josh 7)
 - Gehazi? (2 Kgs. 5:20-27)
 - Balaam? (Num. 22-24)
 - Demas? (2 Tim. 4:10)

Why did he betray Jesus? His character

- Jealousy (Matt. 20:20-28)
- Self-preservation – he knew that the game was up
- Satan had taken possession (Jno. 13:2, 27)