

Aim: To learn from the life of Judas. Why is his story so different from Peters?

Refer:

Resources:

This imaginary letter is from Eating Problems for Breakfast by Tim Hansel. (Word Publishing, 1988, pp. 194-195. Copied from bible.org)

Resumes of Apostles

To: Jesus, Son of Joseph
Woodcrafter's Carpenter Shop
Nazareth 25922

From: Jordan Management Consultants

Dear Sir:

Thank you for submitting the resumes of the twelve men you have picked for managerial positions in your new organization. All of them have now taken our battery of tests; and we have not only run the results through our computer, but also arranged personal interviews for each of them with our psychologist and vocational aptitude consultant.

The profiles of all tests are included, and you will want to study each of them carefully.

As part of our service, we make some general comments for your guidance, much as an auditor will include some general statements. This is given as a result of staff consultation, and comes without any additional fee.

It is the staff opinion that most of your nominees are lacking in background, education and vocational aptitude for the type of enterprise you are undertaking. They do not have the team concept. We would recommend that you continue your search for persons of experience in managerial ability and proven capability.

Simon Peter is emotionally unstable and given to fits of temper. Andrew has absolutely no qualities of leadership. The two brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, place personal interest above company loyalty. Thomas demonstrates a questioning attitude that would tend to undermine morale. We feel that it is our duty to tell you that Matthew had been blacklisted by the Greater Jerusalem Better Business Bureau; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus definitely have radical leanings, and they both registered a high score on the manic-depressive scale.

One of the candidates, however, shows great potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, has a keen business mind, and has contacts in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious, and responsible. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your controller and right-hand man. All of the other profiles are self-explanatory.

We wish you every success in your new venture.

Sincerely,

Jordan Management Consultants

Judas was one of the 12 disciples (Luke 6:16 or Mark 3:19)

And looking from the outside, he may well have looked like the one with the most potential. Many of Jesus' disciples were fishermen, Matthew had been a despised tax collector, but Judas was different, there is no mention of him having a trade.

Read Matthew 10:1, 4

Judas is mentioned in John chapter 6. Jesus had been talking to the people about Jesus being the Bread of Life, and that those who would have Him would have eternal life, even though they died.

Read John 6:66-71 (Many desert... Jesus said, "I chose the twelve of you, but one is a devil.")

Note that, although Jesus dropped hints to the disciples that He knew one of them was listening to Satan, He didn't say who it was, He didn't shame Judas, He didn't even treat Judas differently than He did the other disciples, He allowed Judas to continue being a disciple and even gave him the authority to perform miracles.

The feast where Mary put the oil on Jesus' feet occurred about a week before His arrest.

Read John 12:4-6

Read Luke 22:2-6 (Judas plans to betray Jesus)

When Jesus and the disciples met together for the Passover meal, Jesus washed all of their feet, including Judas' feet.
Read Matthew 26:21-25

Later that night, Judas led the mob to arrest Jesus.

Judas was smart, he'd walked with Jesus for 3 years, he'd seen all the miracles. Jesus had escaped the mob when they tried to kill Him at Nazareth, He'd raised Lazarus to life. Even though Jesus had warned the disciples what was to happen, none of them, including Judas, understood. Everyone was still expecting a Messiah to free them from the Romans and setup an earthly kingdom. And by betraying Jesus, Judas would be 30 silver coins richer, and he might be able to force Jesus into showing His power and setting up His kingdom now. But it didn't work out like that.

Read Matthew 27:3-5

What can we learn from the story of Judas.

Judas was a one of the disciples, he performed miracles, and yet he never fully surrendered his life to God's leading, so when everything failed, he had no hope. Remember Peter last week? Although Peter failed, he still had hope.

A person may be considered a Christian, they may see answered prayers, and even have spiritual gifts, but that doesn't mean they have fully surrendered their life to God.

Each of us needs to spend time with God every day, asking Him to work in our lives, and to lead us. We need to be growing spiritually all the time. We need to give our lives to God, and ask Him to manage them – and remember, since God knows everything, He is the best possible manager there is; much better than we are.