

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

Standing on the Promises of God -

Deuteronomy 33:27a “The eternal God is a dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms. . .”

Remember the parable of Dung Creek -

There was a man who was launched into a stream with a canoe and paddle.

He chose to paddle upstream and, after much paddling, found himself in a place called Dung Creek and he was without a paddle.

John 12:1-6 (In review)

¹ Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.

² So they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving; but Lazarus was one of ***the ones dining*** with Him.

³ Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard,

NARD

Extremely expensive oil
Equivalent of a year’s salary for a normal person
Imported from India
Sealed in a very beautiful translucent vase

Mary . . . anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

Mary is expressing her thanksgiving to the Lord for raising her brother from the dead six weeks ago – a very intimate worship on the part of Mary.

Contrast the expression of Mary with the attitude of Judas Iscariot -

⁴ **But** Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said,

⁵ “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor?”

⁶ Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.

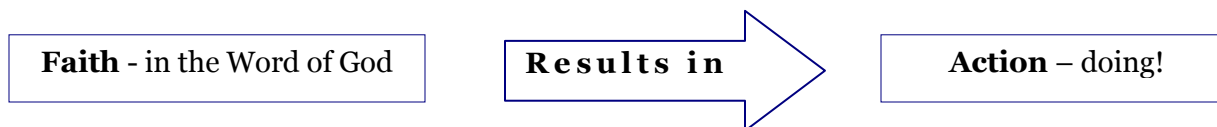
Judas did not completely trust in the Lord!

- ✓ His pilfering was to build up a reserve account.
- ✓ Judas’ security was in what he could do – that is what he trusted in.
- ✓ Contrast with Mary whose trust is in the Lord

- ✓ Judas’ reserve account was his insurance if things did not go his way - a back up plan!

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. Matthew 6:19

- Judas heard those very words - **but** – he did not trust in them.



- Instead, Judas was storing up treasures on earth.
 - ✓ Building up a **reserve account**
 - ✓ A demonstration of a lack of faith and dependence
 - ✓ He was storing up treasure on earth.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

- As a disciple, was he walking by faith or by sight?
 - ✓ He was walking by sight because he was keeping a reserve account for the future.

Judas was an opportunist!

Did Judas need a reserve account in the kingdom? Do you need a reserve account in heaven?

POD - The stream leading to Dung Creek begins with arrogance.

POD - Arrogance results in a lack of trusting the Lord and the veracity of His word.

- ✓ Are you going to trust in the promises of God?
- ✓ Complete and total trust in the promises is what God requires and nothing less!
- ✓ Failure to trust in the Lord's word is a failure to trust the Lord.
- ✓ Failure to trust in the Lord's word is tantamount to not believing Him.

Judas is heading upstream and he's going to arrive in Dung Creek without a paddle.

How do you start heading up stream with Judas as a believer?

- ✓ With arrogance!
- ✓ The arrogant *student/disciple* trusts in himself!
 - The arrogant believer says it's all about what he can do.
 - The arrogant believer always has a plan.
 - The arrogant believer always has a reserve.
 - The arrogant believer does not trust in the veracity of what the Lord says.

POD - Therefore, arrogance places the believer on azimuth for Dung Creek.

- ✓ When you're going upstream, you're not trusting in the promises of God.
- ✓ Therefore, you're walking by sight . . . not really knowing where you are heading.

So much for self-deception!

John 12:4

4 But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him,

μέλλω + παραδίδωμι – communicating the certainty of Judas handing over the Lord

- ✓ This was going to happen in the near future and Judas was intending on performing the verbal action.

John 13:2

² During supper, **the devil having already put into the heart** of Judas Iscariot, *the son of Simon*, to **betray Him**,

- Our adversary, the devil, is the one who gave Judas the idea.
- Judas was tempted. Just because it was put into his heart didn't mean he would do it.
- He had time to think about it!

Adverb of time ἤδη – translated “*by this time*”

- before the Last Supper
- and before the beautiful scene at the dinner party with Mary and Lazarus in Bethany

... the devil **having already put into the heart**

Βάλλω – “*To throw*” with action performed prior to the dinner party at Bethany

εἰς + καρδιά – Indicates the target of the throwing “*Into the heart*” – the soul of Judas

ἵνα + παραδίδωμι – “*that he might hand Him over*” or “*that he might betray Him*”

Corrected translation - ² During supper, **by this time the devil having thrown into the heart of Judas Iscariot, that he might hand Him over.**

- Satanic influence through the transference of thought
- Satan placed into the heart of Judas the concept of betraying his Lord - Jesus Christ.
- Judas responded to that concept – **BECAUSE HE WAS ARROGANT!**

POD - The arrogant believer is susceptible to demonic influence.

POD - However, he still has time to rebound before arriving in Dung Creek without a paddle.

There was a man who was launched into a stream with a canoe and paddle.

He chose to paddle upstream and, after much paddling, found himself in a place called Dung Creek and he was without a paddle.

- Which is easier - heading upstream or downstream?
 - ✓ Upstream requires self effort – the need to paddle hard.
 - ✓ Downstream is easy - the paddle is used occasionally in decisions regarding direction.
 - ✓ The stream is providing all the energy - grace!
- You are either heading upstream or downstream in the Spiritual Life.
- If you are paddling to Dung Creek, you're exerting all the energy.
- If you are going upstream, you're going against the Lord's will - - life becomes irksome!

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.