

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 -

John 16:33b “. . . In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

Nine points to note regarding Judas Iscariot -

1. Judas was not a traitor when the Lord Jesus Christ selected him as one of the 12 (**Luke 6:12-14**).
 - **γίνομαι** - He **became** a traitor himself, by exercising his volition.
2. The heart of Judas was in his treasury as opposed to the Lord and His word (**Matthew 6:19-21 cf. John 12:4-6**).

The Lord said,

19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth . . . **21** for where your treasure is, there your **heart** will be also. **Matthew 6:19, 21**

→ **καρδία** – the heart or soul. Incorporating. . .

- ✓ trust
- ✓ confidence
- ✓ hope
- ✓ priorities
- ✓ the things that are important to you

- Judas heard these words, but he did not trust in them.
 - ✓ This is why he used to pilfer from the treasury (**John 12:4-6**).
 - ✓ He was setting money aside if things did not go his way.
 - The heart of Judas [*his trust and confidence*] was not in the Lord and His word; it was in himself and what he could do.
3. Judas, therefore, walked by sight as opposed to faith.
 - This is where his journey to Dung Creek began.
 - **Hebrews 10:38** “**The righteous shall live by faith. . .**”
 4. Judas was arrogant and opportunistic; hence, he employed human cleverness to insure against the unseen risks of following the Lord.
 - If the kingdom was not established, he had something on which to fall back.
 - This is tantamount to a lack of faith and “**without faith it is impossible to please God. . .**” **Hebrews 10:6**
 5. Judas became the weak link of the 12 disciples because he was arrogant.
 6. This rendered him susceptible to satanic influence.
 - When we function in the arrogance complex of sins and emotional complex of sins, we’re also susceptible to satanic influence.

7. Therefore, Satan exploited Judas as the weak link in the chain (**John 13:2 cf. 12:4**).
 - **John 13:2** During supper, the devil, by this time, having thrown into the *soul* of Judas Iscariot **that he might hand Him over. . . .**
 - Satan accomplished this prior to the dinner party with Lazarus in **John 12:4** because Judas “. . . was intending to betray Him” at the party where Mary expressed her thanksgiving to the Lord.
8. When Judas exercised his volition in response to Satan’s temptation, he became a traitor.
9. Judas responded because he was arrogant.

The Dung Creek application to the believer today -

POD #1 - The stream leading to Dung Creek begins with arrogance.

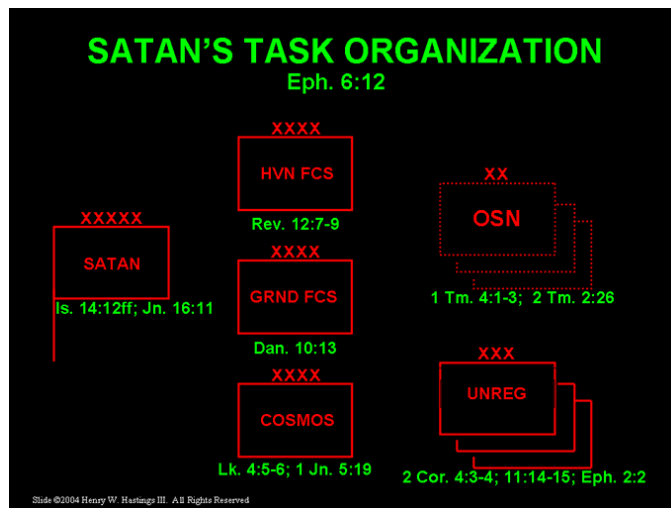
POD #2 - Arrogance results in a lack of trusting the Lord and the veracity of His word.

Failure to trust in the Lord’s word is a failure to trust in the Lord.

POD #3 - Therefore, arrogance places the believer on azimuth for Dung Creek.

POD #4 - The arrogant believer, on his voyage to Dung Creek, is susceptible to demonic influence.

POD #5 - As such, he can be exploited as a weak link in the chain of his church.



He becomes a member of Satan’s TASK ORGANIZATION.

He’s a tool in the hands of Satan to derail the momentum of the local church.

POD #6 - However, he still has time to rebound before arriving in Dung Creek without a paddle.

Luke 22:1

¹ Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was approaching. . .

- A reference to the Last Passover Feast that the Lord would observe with His 12 disciples

² The chief priests and the scribes were **seeking**. . .

- ζῆτέω – “seeking” - Intense deliberation fueled by arrogance!

They . . . were seeking how they might put Him to death; for they were afraid of the people.

- Afraid of the multitudes that followed the Lord

3 And Satan entered into Judas

- εἰσέρχομαι + εἰς + Ἰούδας
 - ✓ Satan “took up residence in Judas.”
 - ✓ Satanic possession

3 And Satan entered into Judas who was called Iscariot, belonging to the number of the twelve.

- Judas has now arrived in Dung Creek, but he does not realize it yet.

Can Satan take up residence or indwell a believer?

No!

- ✓ A believer can be *influenced* but not *indwelt*.
- ✓ Satan can *oppress* and be *with* a believer but not *in*.
- ✓ In the Church Age, every Christian is permanently indwelt by God the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:19 – “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?”

2 Corinthians 6:14-16 “What fellowship has light with darkness . . . or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God. . .”

1 John 4:4 “Greater is He that is in you than he who is in the world.”

- Did Judas or any of the disciples have the indwelling presence of God the Holy Spirit before the day of Pentecost? **No!**

Therefore, could Satan enter into Judas, if he was a believer, prior to the point at which God the Holy Spirit began to indwell believers?

- ✓ Scripture does not support the idea of demonic possession of a believer prior to the Church Age.
- ✓ The closest situation is Saul being demonically *oppressed and terrorized* (**1 Samuel 16:14-23**).
- ✓ A demon came *to* him, was *with* him, *on* him, *upon* him – Saul was even *influenced* by a demon in **1 Samuel 18:10**, but I can find no case of a believer being demon possessed in the Old Testament.
- ✓ When David, who had the Spirit of God with him [endowment], came into the presence of Saul to play the harp, the demon that was present with Saul had to leave!
- ✓ Darkness and light have no fellowship with each other (**2 Corinthians 6:14**).

So if God removed the anointing or endowment of the Spirit from an Old Testament Saint (and the Spirit was *with* them, prior to the Church Age), they were susceptible to demonic influence, but not possession.

Judas now, as a tool of Satan’s, has arrived in Dung Creek – but he does not know he is in Dung Creek and he still has a paddle.

Luke 22:4-5

4 And he went away and discussed with the chief priests and officers how he might betray Him to them. **5** They were glad and agreed to give him money.

- The Lord is betrayed.
- The Lord is arrested in Gethsemane.
- The Lord is tried.

- And where is Judas?
... **Still in Dung Creek**

Matthew 27:1-5

¹ Now when morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus to put Him to death;

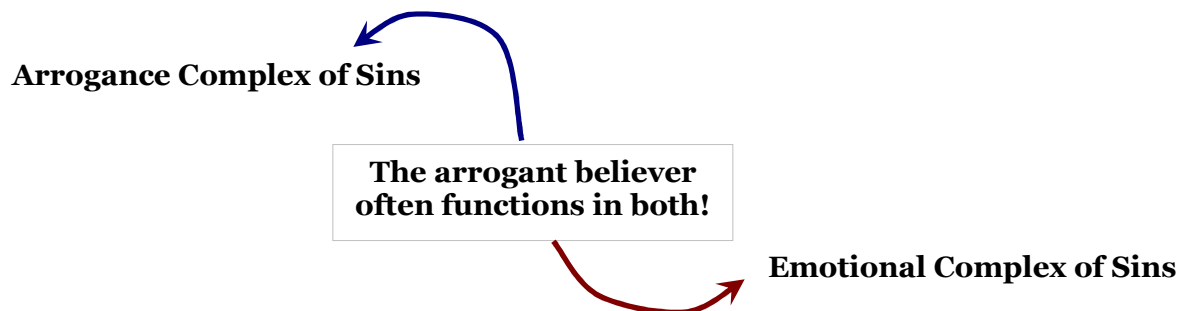
² and they bound Him, and led Him away and delivered Him to Pilate the governor.

³ Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned. . .

➤ **He did three things -**

1. “*He felt remorse*” – μεταμέλομαι – “*emotional repentance*”
2. “*and returned. . . the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders.*”

- ✓ He is trying to make up for what he had done.
- ✓ He is attempting to assuage his **guilt**.
- ✓ He is functioning in the emotional complex of sins.



3. Then Judas confesses his sin.

⁴ saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? See *to that* yourself!”

⁵ And he threw the pieces of silver into the temple sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself.

POD - Remorse, repentance, and confession, minus faith alone in Christ alone, are not able to save the unbeliever.

POD - Remorse and repentance, minus rebound, lead to a miserable death under the burden of emotional guilt for the believer.

Judas was an unbeliever!

POD - Rebound is the only solution for the believer wallowing in carnality, because rebound alone secures forgiveness and purification for the believer.

POD - The arrogant believer prefers remorse and repentance, as opposed to the grace of rebound, because they are what he can offer up to God in order to assuage his guilt complex.

- ✓ Remorse and repentance serve as Satan’s dagger to render the believer useless in the angelic conflict.
- ✓ When the believer believes that he can restore himself to fellowship by remorse and repentance, he has arrived in Dung Creek without a paddle.

➤ **What happened after Judas hung himself?**

- ✓ The rope broke.
- ✓ Application for the believer is that the loser believer functioning in the arrogant skills is incapable of hanging himself correctly.

Acts 1:18

Falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his **intestines** gushed out.

σπλάγχνον – SPLAGCHNON – “innards”; figuratively meaning *the seat of human emotion*

- Emotions poured out in a field by the unbeliever rise no higher than the field itself.
- Emotions poured out in a field by the believer do not impress God nor will they get the believer anywhere in the plan of God.

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.

The arrogant and independent always arrive in Dung Creek with their emotions and without a paddle.

The feverish paddling of Judas resulted in his arrival at Dung Creek with his emotional repentance minus a paddle!

What good is a paddle to you when your intestines are spread out over a field?

So, why did the Lord select Judas, an unbeliever, from all His students?

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