

# Something to Pray About

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By Cindy Sears – April 2011

***“SON OF PERDITION”***

[Jesus said], “While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.” —John 17:12 NKJV

Jesus refers to His betrayer as “a devil” or “devil”, and as the “son of perdition.” He also says he is the only one lost “so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled.” The question is, “Does this mean that Judas Iscariot was predestined to betray Jesus?” In other words, did Judas have no choice in the matter? Did he have no free will? Was he born simply to be Christ's betrayer?

Jesus knows the hearts of everyone—even better than they do themselves. Consider how Peter swore to Jesus that he would never deny Jesus—even unto death. Yet, Jesus predicted that Peter would deny Him three times before the cock crowed twice (see Mark 14:27-31; 66-72). Jesus knew Peter's heart better than Peter did. He also knew that the Holy Spirit had not been given yet; the Spirit had not come to indwell the disciples.

But, an indwelling did occur among the disciples. One man chose to let the devil in. That man was Judas Iscariot. I believe Judas chose to let Satan have free rein in him. Even after Judas saw the results of what he had done, knew that what he had done was wrong and was evil—Judas still refused to turn to Jesus for forgiveness. He killed himself rather than submit to Jesus (see Matthew 26:21-25; 27:3-5). Judas did everything according to his own agenda up to and including his suicide (as Satan wanted him to do—to put his human pride before God). Was Judas Iscariot predestined to do this so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled? I don't think so. Jesus gave Judas a chance at the Last Supper to refuse to follow Satan's agenda. Someone was destined to be indwelt by the devil and, therefore, to betray Jesus. The Lord God knew what Satan would do and how he would do it. That was a part of the plan of salvation. Jesus chose the twelve disciples. He knew one was a “devil.” Hadn't Judas already chosen his path by the time Jesus made him part of His company of disciples? John says he stole from the disciples' money box (see John 12:4-6). Were there other men Jesus could have chosen to be a disciple who would also have followed Satan's agenda? Considering there was more than one man responsible for what happened, it's entirely possible that others with the same capability to allow the devil to rule them were available. Jesus knew each disciple's heart. He knew the choices that Judas Iscariot would make—and I believe Jesus loved him anyway. Until Judas died, wasn't he capable of being saved? Jesus forgave all those who put Him on the cross—that knew not what they were doing. Did Judas know what he was doing? How much did he know? Once he let the devil indwell him, did he lose all chance of salvation?

God's thoughts are high above our thoughts; His ways are beyond our comprehension (see Isaiah 55:8-9). There are some things that will remain a mystery to us until we go to be with our Lord in heaven. This is one of those things. I simply praise God that He died for me, that He called me, and that I stopped fighting against His call and let the Lord take me and make me a child of God. Hallelujah! Praise be to our merciful and loving and sovereign Lord—Father, Son, Holy Spirit. All who now live hear the same call. What is your answer? Today is the day of salvation. Death closes the door forever. ✝

