



JUDAS,
HOW
COULD
YOU?

- John 13:1-5 – Jesus and Judas are starkly contrasted in this passage. One wonders how Judas was able to go through with his plan to betray the Lord given the incredible love and power he'd witnessed for several years. How could he NOT be fully committed and convinced?
- Of course, the first point we need to make is that we might not have done much better. Every disciple abandoned Jesus that night (Mark 14:50). All of them had enough warning, and enough bravado (at first [Mark 14:31]), but they abandoned Him, nevertheless. So what drove Judas to go a step beyond that and actively, consciously betray the Lord?





WAS IT HIS FATE?

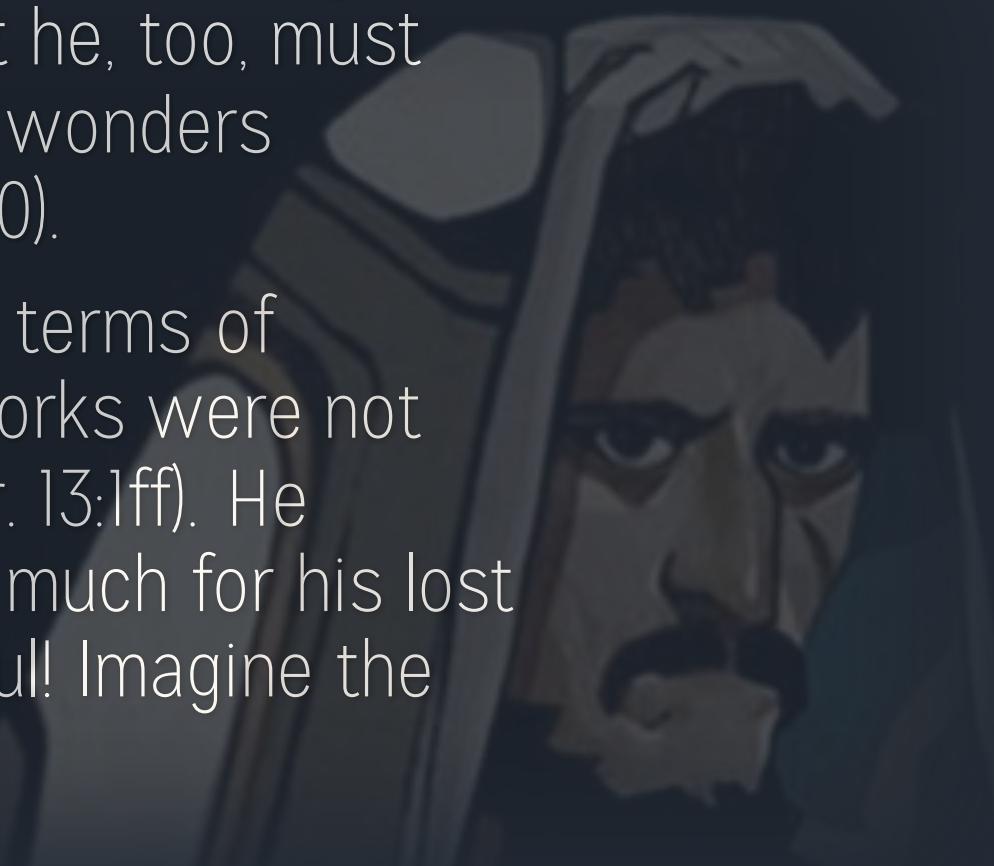
- Judas was hand-picked by Jesus, who was fully aware of the outcome (John 6:70-71). This does not mean Jesus *caused* Judas to go down this path. In fact, the Holy Spirit puts that squarely on Satan (John 13:2, 27).
- Even with that being said, Judas ultimately had free will. Satan can plant an idea, a thought, a desire – we act upon it (James 1:13-15, 2 Cor. 2:11).
- The real enemy has always been the devil. Man, on his own, cannot conceive of such evil. It takes the devil to bring someone like Judas to such a dark place. We might do many evil things – but Satan is the source of evil.

FAILURE BEGINS LONG BEFORE THE FALL

- Judas made many mistakes leading up to his ultimate demise. It might have been the devil's idea to sell Jesus to the authorities, but Judas' weakened moral state was due to a life of one bad choice after another.
- Jesus knew he was prone to greed. He was envious. He was dishonest. He was a man of pretense. The incident with the perfume was just one example of this (John 12:1-8). It's no surprise that it took silver to win him over! Jesus knew his heart when he first selected him (John 13:18, 6:70).



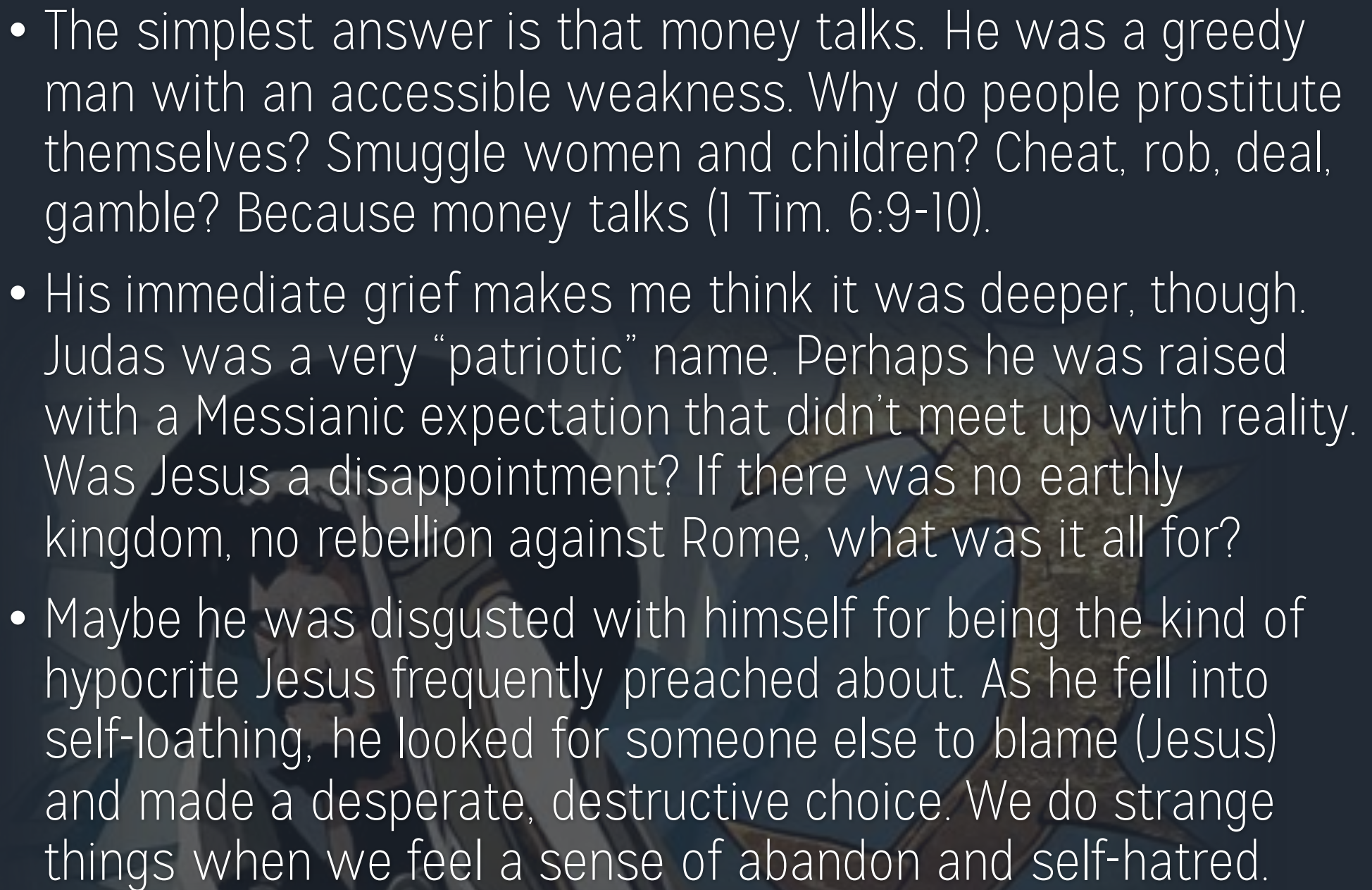
- It's hard to imagine such sin co-existing with the many wonders Judas witnessed in his ministry (Luke 10:23-24). Not only did he see Jesus' miracles, but he, too, must have performed signs and wonders (Matthew 10:1, Luke 9:1, 6, 10).
- Truly, he had no excuse, in terms of evidence. All of his good works were not accompanied by love (1 Cor. 13:1ff). He should be remembered as much for his lost potential as for his lost soul! Imagine the impact he could have had...





JUDAS MADE IT “TOO LATE”

- The most tragic part of his story is that it was never too late for Judas until he made it too late! He had all the ingredients necessary for repentance and optimism for future spiritual success. He had regret (Matt. 27:3-4). He had knowledge. He had friends who would have rallied around him (Luke 22:31-32).
- Judas might have been destined to betray Jesus, but that doesn't mean he was destined for hell.
- John 13:8-10 – Judas' feet were washed too. This is an invitation to spiritual cleansing, not dissimilar to the sentiments found in Psalm 51:7-14.

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- The simplest answer is that money talks. He was a greedy man with an accessible weakness. Why do people prostitute themselves? Smuggle women and children? Cheat, rob, deal, gamble? Because money talks (1 Tim. 6:9-10).
 - His immediate grief makes me think it was deeper, though. Judas was a very “patriotic” name. Perhaps he was raised with a Messianic expectation that didn’t meet up with reality. Was Jesus a disappointment? If there was no earthly kingdom, no rebellion against Rome, what was it all for?
 - Maybe he was disgusted with himself for being the kind of hypocrite Jesus frequently preached about. As he fell into self-loathing, he looked for someone else to blame (Jesus) and made a desperate, destructive choice. We do strange things when we feel a sense of abandon and self-hatred.

SO, HOW COULD YOU DO IT, JUDAS?