

No. 26      Do Not Imitate Disloyal Ones (Symposium)  
              -Judas Iscariot

[PLEASE NOTE: This talk includes a video]

HOW JUDAS ISCARIOT DISPLAYED DISLOYALTY (1 min.)

Today, the name Judas is synonymous with "traitor"; yet, Judas was initially a highly favored disciple

In time, he had the distinction of being an apostle

He actively preached and possibly shared in performing miracles  
(Mt 10:1, 4, 5)

Despite his good start, he pursued a course that eventually led him to scheme unrepentantly to betray the Son of God (Mt 26:14-16)

WHAT MOTIVATED JUDAS TO BECOME DISLOYAL? (2 min.)

Judas evidently nurtured harmful desires instead of being content with adequate material sustenance (Joh 12:2-7; Jas 1:14, 15)

He was not personally predestined to pursue a treacherous course; he chose to become disloyal

His inordinate desire for money led him to become a thief

Committing smaller acts of disloyalty led Judas to carry out more brazen deceptive behavior (Joh 13:2)

WHAT WARNING MUST WE TAKE FROM THE BAD EXAMPLE OF JUDAS? (2 min.)

Once loyal does not mean always loyal

Close association with loyal ones can encourage us to be loyal too, but it does not guarantee that we will be

Although humans may be unaware when someone "secretly" practices sin, Jehovah eventually calls to account any who cultivate greed while outwardly feigning loyalty [Read Hebrews 4:13]

Lack of contentment can lead a person of any age to cultivate a greedy practice, such as gambling (Lu 12:15)

Some forms of gambling require only a small amount of money

Organizers may tempt players to participate by computer, phone, or other device

The following video portrays how greed threatens loyalty

VIDEO (2 min.)

BLESSINGS AWAIT THOSE WHO DO NOT IMITATE DISLOYAL ONES (3 min.)

All imperfect humans have weaknesses

It is vital to acknowledge this and to work to eliminate our specific weaknesses so that the Devil does not exploit them (1Pe 5:8)

Loyal ones are guaranteed everlasting life and Jehovah's favor

We are grateful to Jehovah for the powerful warning examples included in his inspired Word (Ro 15:4)

Did you take note of each one? Can you recall them?

*Adam:* Beware of the snare of misplaced loyalty

*Absalom:* Identify ambitious tendencies and root them out

*Solomon:* Reject the spirit of overconfidence

*Judas Iscariot:* Cultivate and maintain contentment

Let us resolve to take a warning from the bad example of disloyal ones!  
(3 John 11)

TO BE COVERED IN 10 MINUTES