

- B. The mistakes of Judas.
 - 1. Judas stole from the money bag of the disciples (John 12:3-6).
 - a) No doubt this was only small amounts; otherwise, the disciples would have noticed.
 - b) Sometimes we disregard “little sins” because they are so small and appear so insignificant.
 - c) However, they soon blossom into a trap that destroys us just as it did Judas (James 1:14-15).
 - 2. Judas saw a way to make some quick money (Matthew 26:14-16).
 - a) Perhaps he thought, “I will point Him out to them, but they will not be able to take Him.”
 - b) Perhaps he thought Jesus would only be harassed, or that He had escaped them many times before (Luke 4:30; John 8:59).
- C. Peter and Judas were equally guilty.
 - 1. The difference between these sins makes no difference to God.
 - a) To God, once someone transgresses or violates the law, the result is sin (1 John 3:4).
 - b) Even though one sin was denial and the other was betrayal, both actions were lawless, therefore they were both sin and were both accountable.
 - 2. It is not “he who sins,” but “what we do with our sins” that counts.
 - a) Do we repent and do the will of God (Matthew 21:28-31)?
 - b) Do we continue in lawlessness and ungodliness (2 Corinthians 12:20-21)?

III. They Both Were Warned

- A. Matthew 26:21-25.
 - 1. When Judas and the apostles were warned, Judas was the last one to ask, “Is it I?”
 - 2. The guilty would, if possible, always conceal their crimes. The innocent are ready to suspect that they may have done something wrong.
- B. Luke 22:31-34.
 - 1. Jesus warned Peter that Satan would sift him, trying to make him fall away from the faith.
 - 2. Jesus prayed that when Peter turned away from his sinful course, he would strengthen his brethren.
- C. The Lord knew there would be a great difference in the way these two men responded.
 - 1. A lot of us ask how these men could do this after Jesus said it would happen?
 - 2. But how many heed His warnings today (Luke 21:34-36; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 21:8)?

IV. They Both Were Remorseful Because Of Their Sins

- A. Matthew 27:1-5.
 - 1. Being sorry for sin is not enough (2 Corinthians 7:10).
 - a) Many are only sorry that they got caught.
 - b) This kind of sorrow does not produce a change of heart and life. It merely makes the sinner more careful and cunning not to get caught next time.

2. Judas was a coward by taking his own life — he took the easy way out.
 - a) He should have admitted his wrong and tried to make amends instead of destroying himself by self-murder (Proverbs 28:13; Luke 18:13).
 - b) There is nothing in the scripture which gives the least ray of hope for Judas (Acts 1:16-19). In fact, Jesus said, “it had been good for that man if he had not been born” (Matthew 26:24).
 - c) Of course, the great majority of people do not choose to end their lives because of their sin, but if they refuse to repent their conscience will condemn them (Psalm 51:1-4; John 8:9; Romans 2:15).
- B. Matthew 26:75.
1. They had many similarities, but there is one great difference. Peter was sorry enough for his sins to turn from them.
 2. After he did, he went on to be a great disciple of the Lord.
 - a) He preached the first gospel sermon wherein 3,000 were converted.
 - b) He worked great miracles including raising Dorcas from the dead.
 - c) He was the first to open the way for the Gentiles.
 - d) By inspiration he left two marvelous epistles.
 - e) He died as a martyr (John 21:18-19; 2 Peter 1:13-14).
 3. An extremely important lesson to learn from Peter’s repentance is that while there is life there is hope (Ecclesiastes 9:4-5). If change needs to be made, there is no benefit in waiting until a more convenient time (cp. Acts 26:28).

Conclusion. What a difference in the destiny of these two men! They heard the same teaching from Jesus; they saw the miracles; they were warned; they made mistakes; they were guilty; and, they had remorse.

But Peter was saved and Judas was lost. The answer is simple. All men have sinned (Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8-10). Peter remembered that he had an advocate with the Father (1 John 2:1), and he approached the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16). Peter turned to God while Judas went his own tragic way. God is looking today for people who will turn to God (Acts 26:19-20).