



Today's Message

Date: July 3, 2022
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *Satan's Futile Plan*

Text: Luke 22:1–6 (ESV)

¹ Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. ² And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death, for they feared the people. ³ Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. ⁴ He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. ⁵ And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. ⁶ So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd.

Introduction: This sermon text describes the plot to betray Jesus. With heart-breaking detail we discover that the betrayer was one of Jesus' own disciples. It was probably Wednesday evening during the week of Jesus' passion. Perhaps the events of this text took place while Jesus talked with Peter, James, and John on the slopes of the Mount of Olives. Judas slipped away for a private meeting with the religious authorities in Israel. He conspired with them to betray the Lord Jesus. The next day would be occupied with preparation for the Passover meal and the day after that, Jesus would die.

I. Israel's religious leaders were hindered from acting on their murderous desires. 1-2

- A. Even a holy festival could not suppress their desire to kill Jesus. 1

- B. But fear of the people prevented them from taking action.

II. Judas provided a way for the leaders to kill Jesus. 3-6

- A. He served as an agent of Satan though he was one of the twelve. 3
- B. He initiated a conspiracy to deliver Jesus into the hands of His enemies. 4
- C. He negotiated betrayal for a meager sum of money. 5
- D. He calculated nefarious plan to hide the betrayal from public view. 6

Today's take-home truth: Even Satan cannot nullify the promise that God works all things together for good to those who love him (cf. Romans 8:28).

Lessons to remember:

1. Nothing is hidden from the eyes of the Lord. Cf. 22:10-12; 21
2. Satan would make each of us a "Judas" but for the grace of our Lord. Cf. 22:31-32
3. What Satan and Judas intended for evil, God intended for good. Cf. 22:22, 37