

# Did Judas really have a choice?

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**Did Judas have a choice? Jesus knew beforehand who would betray him, and when, and why. Yet, how is it possible that someone, anyone, can be irretrievably locked into a path of evil? That would be a form of curse, wouldn't it?**

**The crucifixion had been prophesied centuries earlier. And Judas committed suicide in anguish and remorse. *Did Judas have a choice?* — from a reader in Beijing, China**

**A:** Judas' betrayal of Jesus and his journey through remorse and suicide seems a very difficult question, but I think we have to consider it in the light of Jesus' resurrection and mission for the redemption of all mankind.

As you say, it was foreseen that Jesus would be betrayed and crucified. Judas was the individual who betrayed Jesus, but rather than seeing Judas as preordained to carry out an evil act, we can view his actions as the carnal mind's impersonal attack on the Christ, which Jesus manifested. No one is irretrievably locked into a path of evil. God would never ordain an evil act. Rather, evil is the inevitable response of material-mindedness to its opposite, good.

Our Master could have avoided the crucifixion and the events surrounding it. *Science and Health* explains: "Jesus could have withdrawn himself from his enemies. He had power to lay down a human sense of life for his spiritual identity in the likeness of the divine; but he allowed men to attempt the destruction of the mortal body in order that he might furnish the proof of immortal life" ([p. 51](#)).

Because God, good, made man in His image, it is in reality impossible for man to act in a way that is not in line with good; it is impossible to choose to disobey the only Mind that governs us.

Consumed by envy, greed, and the desire for popularity, Judas, whose character was so far removed from the goodness and purity of Jesus, conspired to betray him. Later, Judas' attempt to return 30 pieces of silver—followed by the taking of his own life—shows, I think, that he was aware of the wrong he had done.

Was it then too late for Judas to learn from this bitter experience? Jesus' resurrection proved for all that there is a probationary state beyond the grave (see *Science and Health*, p. 46). So I think it's natural to believe that Judas would have awakened from that anguished suicide to realize that he had not lost his life but could continue to grow in his understanding of it.

No one is stuck in patterns of evil thoughts that can't be changed, but it is necessary for each one to see the wrong and be willing to turn from it.