

THE FIVE STEPS DOWN Matthew 26:14-16, 23, 25  
Matthew 27:3-5; John 12:1-10  
(Introduction)

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The most penetrating story of the egocentric-  
(Introvert) is seen in Judas.

1. Judas began high, a loyal disciple for a time. But he followed the FIVE STEPS DOWN AND HERE THEY ARE:

1. HE THOUGHT THAT HE COULD GIVE TOO MUCH TO JESUS. John 12:5

1. He objected to the woman's lavish gift as bestowed upon Jesus.
2. His objection was a sign of an inward holding back.

2. "WHAT WILL YOU GIVE ME?" Matt. 26:15

1. Judas was the center of "Give me."
2. "Give me" was the first step down for the prodigal son. (Luke 15:11-32)
3. When any person begins to say "GIVE ME" that person is on the way down.

3. "HE SOUGHT OPPORTUNITY TO BETRAY HIM." Matt. 26:16

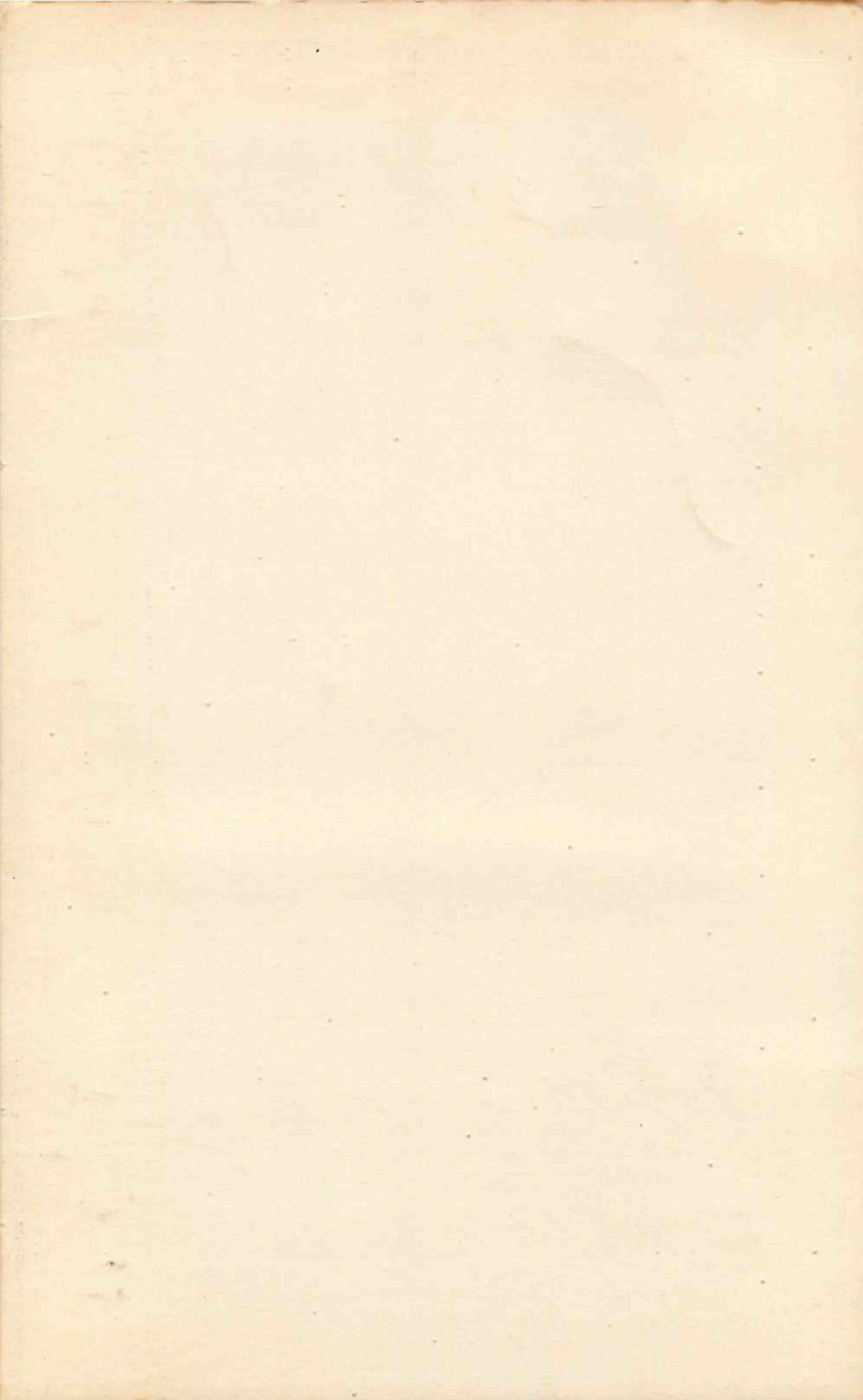
1. In doing this Judas was trying to arrange his little world so that it would not fall to pieces.
2. All this is the natural outcome of a self-centered person: Introvert; Egocentric.
  1. Such people are always number one with themselves: God, Christ, others always come a very poor second if at all.

4. HIS WORLD BEGAN TO CRUMBLE.

1. Jesus said, "He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish." Matthew 26:23  
Judas asked, "Master, is it I?" Jesus said, "Thou hast said." Matthew 26:25
  1. The heart of things began to be revealed  
So we have step number five:

5. "THEN...JUDAS SAW THAT HE WAS CONDEMNED." Matt 27:3

1. The world that he had so carefully planned lay at his feet in ashes. His world had collapsed entirely. He must do something! But what? He repented?



THE FIVE STEPS DOWN. (PAGE TWO)

1. JUDAS REPENTED. Matthew 27:3
  1. Judas repented in the wrong direction.
  2. He turned in useless regret to the high priest and elders.
    1. Turned to them instead of to Jesus.
2. HE BROUGHT BACK. Matthew 27:3
  1. He tried to steady his fallen world by a half-way restitution.
  2. He brought the money back, but he retained himself. (Many people would like to trade with Jesus like that: they will give up some things if they can keep the rest)  
Matt.
3. "WHAT IS THAT TO US? SEE THOU TO THAT." 27:4
  1. He finds his world, that he thought to be built up so securely, not trustable.
    1. His companions in crime had let him down
    2. Sin has no lasting cohesion in it. The world of sin must fall apart at last.
    3. Sin has no care for its victim.
      1. Whiskey makers don't care for the poor alcoholic they created with their ware.
      2. Cigarette manufactures do not care one thing about the poor victims of cancer, especially in the lungs ETC.
4. "AND HE DEPARTED." Matthew 27:5
  1. When he departed he went off:
    1. He went off from opportunity.
    2. He went off from the good life.
    3. All this because he went off from Christ
5. "...AND WENT AND HANGED HIMSELF. Matt. 27:5
  1. This is the natural outcome of the:
    1. The self that was so demanding and so central in the beginning, saying, "GIVE ME," has come to the end of the road.
  2. This "self" became impossible to live with so he just went out and hanged the self that started him down, and complete collapse will be the end of the egocentric, Introvert

