

# “The Office”

## Acts 1:12-26

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / May 12, 2019

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- I. **Judas isn't in Hell for handing Jesus over to be crucified. Judas isn't in Hell for committing suicide. Judas is in Hell for the same reason anyone else will be there. He did not love the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**1 Cor. 16:22** - <sup>22</sup> If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed...

**A. Judas was committed and gifted.**

**Luke 9:1-2** - <sup>1</sup> And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, <sup>2</sup> and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.

Don't think Judas was some half-baked disciple. He was one of “the twelve.” He taught! He healed! He cast out demons! But as committed and gifted as he was, he lacked love and perseverance for Christ.

**B. Judas had untold opportunities as a firsthand witness and companion of Christ.**

When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead in John 11, **Judas was there.**

When Jesus fed thousands, **Judas was there.**

When Jesus commanded a storm to be still, **Judas was there.**

When Jesus preached His “Sermon on the Mount,” **Judas was there.**

*“But Judas teaches us that even the the best example, the most compelling evidence, and the finest teaching—the ultimate environment for incubating faith—cannot, in and of themselves, change the human heart.”*

~ Colin Smith

**What about you?** When are you tempted to blame yourself for someone's hard heart? Is there someone whose unbelief you're tempted to think is your fault?

- II. **You need to know that as 21st century Christians, we have more than the Apostles ever did!**

Casting lots was an accepted Old Testament practice to discern the will of God.

**Prov. 16:33** - <sup>33</sup> The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.

**Prov. 18:18** - <sup>18</sup> The lot puts an end to quarrels and decides between powerful contenders.

**A. We have the Holy Spirit with us, at all times, as our comfort, guide and strength!**

**John 16:7** - <sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: **it is to your advantage that I go away**, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

**John 14:16,17,26** - <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, **for he dwells with you and will be in you...**<sup>26</sup> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **he will teach you all things** and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

**B. We have Christ the Word, and more access to Him than at anytime in history!**

**John 1:14** - <sup>14</sup> **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us**, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**2 Peter 1:3-4** - <sup>3</sup> **His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup> by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

**C. We have the privilege of being a part of the church, the family of God, to give and receive support, prayer, encouragement and help when needed.**

**Questions for Community Group and/or Personal Application:**

- (1) Name 1-3 people for whom you grieve because they don't love Jesus.
- (2) Jesus was a perfect example, teacher and role model for Judas, and he still ultimately didn't believe. Does remembering that help you to not blame yourself for the sin and unbelief of others? Why or why not?
- (3) Pastor Peter said he believes that most 21st century Christians have more than the Apostles ever did. Do you agree with that? Why or why not?
- (4) Read John 1:1-18 and count how many times Jesus is referred to as "the Word." What does that mean?
- (5) What is one thing you can do this week to take advantage of the unprecedented, virtually unlimited access you have to Christ the Word?