

Treasurer of the little band. And the man may have been fitted to transact all the secular business of the disciples, and he had perhaps done so with fidelity till near the close of his career. But at this time his profession of sympathy for the poor was insincere. "This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein." The mind is turned away from the Redeemer to mammon. Judas becomes avaricious to his ruin, and everlasting disgrace. The love of money is the root of all evil. Judas had made an arrangement with the chief priests to betray his Master unto them. He consulted with them as to the mode. The men in power would give Judas all the instructions necessary to the carrying out of their diabolical ends; and from this time Judas sought opportunity to betray his master in the absence of the multitude. The men in power wished to take Jesus without creating an uproar among the people. From this time Judas was identified with the enemies of Christ. He was committed against that Master whom he professed to serve, and who loved him with an unchanging love. Some are of opinion that Judas was stung by the reproof which the Saviour gave him in regard to the conduct of Mary, and that he determined on revenge. This might have had some influence in the formation of the design of the traitor, but we think that his cupidity was the most powerful incentive. The reproof of Jesus might bring the matter to maturity in the mind of Judas, but the desire for money occupied the highest niche in his heart. The reproof was intended for the benefit of Judas, and to expose to himself his covetous disposition. How many like Judas turn their blessings into a curse. Judas, after having covenanted with the chief priests and captains, returned and partook of the passover supper with Jesus and the other disciples. In the evening Jesus came with the twelve, and they sat down to eat. With what feelings would the traitor take his place at the table, with that loving One for whose betrayal he had covenanted with the rulers! Yet we believe, that it was the sincere desire of the Saviour that Judas should be saved, and the evidence of this we would rest upon certain little incidents that stand out in the history of the Last Supper.

1. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. Judas was not excepted. The love of the Saviour was not influenced by his knowledge as to the dark work in which Judas had been recently engaged. The Saviour might have passed him by leaving him unwashed