



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
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MY LINES

Micah William

The Gospel of Judas

By: Gary W. Summers

On Paul Harvey's Friday broadcast, April 7th, came the following news item:

National Geographic has located an ancient manuscript in the Egyptian desert. It's written on papyrus. It has authenticated itself with carbon dating. It has been translated by Biblical scholars. And unlike the other four gospels, this one indicates that Judas' betrayed Jesus at Jesus' request – hear this carefully, that Judas helped Jesus get rid of His physical flesh and liberate His spiritual self.

This announcement is not nearly so damaging as it sounds – in fact, it is not damaging at all. What makes this "news" item sound even remotely interesting is our modern day ignorance of church history and writings. Most of us are unaware of how many "gospels" were actually written. There was the Gospel according to Thomas, the Gospel of the Nazarenes, and others listed. *The Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature* was first published from 1867-1887. The Gospel of Judas was mentioned by them:

Of the gospels no longer extant, we know little more than that they once existed. We read in Irenaeus, Epiphanius, Origen, Eusebius and other ecclesiastical writers of the Gospels of Eve or of Perfection, of Barnabas (ancient and modern), of Bartholomew, of Basilides, of Hesychius, of **Judas Iscariot**, of the Valentinians, of Apollos,

of Cerinthus, of the Twelve Apostles and several others (3:940) (emphasis gws).

Many of these were known but rejected and perhaps lost because they were fabrications – counterfeits considered unworthy of any merit. That some one found a manuscript of a lost, bogus book might be news, but it is not news that the writing existed. Before anyone makes another stupefying find, there are plenty of other works that were written. Philip Schaff, in his monumental work *History of the Christian Church*, points out that many apocryphal books of Acts were written, including The Acts of Peter and Paul, The Acts of Thomas, The Acts of Thaddeus, The Acts of Barnabas, The Acts of Andrew, The Acts of Simon and Jude and several others (1:188).

Many of these apocryphal books were written to establish some heresy that a sect had developed over the years. They all contradict the truth of the 27 books of the New Testament. They were written after the first century, after inspiration had ceased, and were fairly easily identifiable as fraudulent.

The very idea that Jesus asked Judas to betray Him is farcical. There were several times that they wanted to put Him to death; our Lord did not need any help in raising the ire of the Jews or giving them opportunities. But consider these facts (from the gospel accounts).

1. Jesus said: ***The Son of Man goeth as it is written of Him; but woe unto that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It had been good for that man if he had not been born.*** (Matthew 26:24) How hypocritical would have been to have asked Judas to do that which he would regret

eternally? There is a vast difference between God allowing men to sin and encouraging them to do so.

2. Jesus' spiritual self did not need to be liberated. He was God in the flesh (John 1:1, 14). He was so spiritual that He told Philip, ***"He that hath seen me hath seen the Father."*** (John 14:9)
3. Judas did not betray Jesus to help Him, but rather for 30 pieces of silver – because he was a covetous man – a thief, who stole from the money box. (John 12:4-6)
4. Judas betrayed Christ because he was motivated by Satan (Luke 22:3-4) – not by some alleged request from Jesus.

The Gospel of Judas is nothing more than an attempt to justify Judas and discredit Jesus – to turn light into darkness and darkness into light. (Isaiah 5:20) The world would not have missed a thing if it had remained lost, but, having been found, it is certainly no threat to Christianity. It is just as apocryphal and invalid today as it was then. Most people will soon realize that fact.

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Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

Recovering after surgery will often try your patience. Especially when you seem to be feeling good and feel that you should be busy about your work. I've read a lot, sat a lot and thought a lot. For six weeks I can't lift anything. That means I am unable to help with my grand's and great's. I miss that.

My daughters have been great. Cyndie said, "I'll do anything you need done or pick up anything you need. It just may not be in your time frame." Really, I'm not on a time frame right now!

We need patience every day. We especially need patience with God. He doesn't use our time frame either. We must give God time to handle our requests in His time frame.

"If a ruler's anger rises against you, do not leave your post; calmness can lay great errors to rest." (Ecclesiastes 10:4 NIV) Calmness can lay great errors to rest. This says a lot about patience. Calmness, patience, longsuffering. Any of these can solve so much and avoid so many problems or heartaches. Impatience can cause errors, sin, anger and all kinds of problems. Often just a little patience will help. We have always been told to count to ten. This gives us enough time to reconsider what we are about to say or do.

"Lack of pep is often mistaken for patience." Kin Hubbard

This lack of pep or laziness is not what is meant by patience in the Bible. Patience is perseverance or endurance. Not even akin to lazy. With patience and perseverance we are steadfast, determined not to give up. Paul spoke a lot about perseverance in his writings.

"Be patient, then brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near." (James 5:7-8)

Exerting patience can be one of our most rewarding options in this life.

Remember

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Dana Bates—tumor in throat has been diagnosed as malignant, surgery, Thursday, June 15th, Baptist, L.R.

Lawrence Boley—Sees doctors Wednesday to discuss possible diagnostic procedure for heart blockage.

Charles Hickey — in intense pain, doctors running tests for a better diagnosis and pain management.

Pat Holloway — serious health problems, receiving weekly treatments (glands swelling).

Teresa McKinley — Don Sheeran's sister, hospitalized, St. Louis.

Shut-ins: Need prayers and visits.

Dover Area: **Bernice Brown**

Evelyn Burton

Mae Vanzandt

Russellville Nursing and Rehab Center:

Thelma Hatcher

Esther Sparks

Stella Manor: **Louise Killer**

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Walter and Thelma Arcynski, J. D. Bates, Lloyd Boley, Susie Boley, Gail Brewer, Dora Dean Cloud, Tom Collier, Jeff Davis, Hoyt Ensey, Barbara Forehand, Clifton Gamble, Grady Gregory, Vickie Gregory, Sue Griffin, Hiroko Hatcher, Chris Henderson, Alice Hollis, Brian Holloway, Robert and Rose Lee, John and Jannie Myers, Joe Miller, Teresa Phillips, Reddie Smith, Tanya Smith, Mildred Sutherlin, Juanita Whitted, Pauline Whorton, Valentina, and Elsie Youngerman.

Special Children: Emmy May, Gabriel Ross Finlayson, Keith Martin, Zachary Shelton and Noah Williams.

Military: Jon Allen, Darus Brown, Greg Davis, Johnny Ragsdale, Cole Wetzel and Rudy Will.

Eagles In A storm

Continued from column 3, same page

the storms that bring sickness, tragedy, failure and disappointment into our lives.

We can soar above the storm.

Remember, it is not the burdens of life that weigh us down; it is how we handle them.

Author Unknown

Give Me The Truth

Author Unknown

If you are my friend, if you are concerned about my soul, give me the truth. Do not flatter me. Do not praise my virtues while remaining silent about my vices. Do not fear the truth will offend me. Do not treasure our friendship, our friendly relationship, above my salvation. Do not think by ignoring my sins you can help me. Do not think that being blind to my sins will prove you charitable. However I may react to it, whatever may be my attitude toward you after you have done it, GIVE ME THE TRUTH.

For the Truth and only the Truth, can make me free from the shackles of sin, strengthen me in the pathway of righteousness, and lead me to heaven's joy.

If I am wavering, weak, lukewarm, indifferent, neglectful; if I have been drawn into pleasure of the world; if I have left my first love; if I have been led astray by error; or if I have done none of these, but simply need to grow in knowledge and be edified, GIVE ME THE TRUTH!

Eagles In A Storm

Did you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks? The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come.

When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages, below, the eagle is soaring above it. The eagle does not escape the storm. It simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that bring the storm.

When the storms of life come upon us . . . and all of us will experience them . . . we can rise above them by setting our minds and our belief toward God.

The storms do not have to overcome us. We can allow God's power to lift us above them.

God enables us to ride the winds of
Continued, same page, bottom of Column 2

Events

Dover Church of Christ Children's Church

Every Sunday

11:15 - 12:00 Noon

Ages 4 thru 8
Bible Story and
Activities

Ages 1 thru 3
Nursery Class

CAMP CAUDLE Mars Hill

June 18 thru June 24
Day Camp

Director: David Riley
Ages 10 thru 17

Registration Sunday 3 – 5

CAMP CAUDLE

Wanted!

Camp Cooks for Junior
Week, June 25th.

If you can serve please call
Greg Sublett 501-658-8849

Mark Your Calendars

SCRAPBOOKING

Dover Church of Christ

June 22nd

9:30 AM until ?

Dover Church of Christ

Lawn Schedule

June 24 Rick Hollis
Silas Powers

Announcement:

Please bring empty printer's
ink cartridges for the Care
Center and place in the
container in the side foyer
of the Dover Church of
Christ.

Reminder:

Southern Christian
Home truck will be
here to pick-up sup-plies
and groceries,
June 22nd!

June Birthdays

- 01 Sandra Boatright
- 02 Chase Chance
- 03 Allen Veasman
- 04 Michelle Helton
- 05 Eugene Qualls
- 07 Bob Bennett
Victoria Mitchell
- 10 Leanna Mullins
- 11 Joe Miller
- 12 Ashlee Wilson
- 14 Kenna Rae Jackson
- 15 Jacqueline Helton
- 21 Caitlyn Straight
- 22 Nina June Qualls
- 25 Ashley Anderson
Pat Holloway
Iris Lawley
- 28 Tanya Smith
Joyce Walters

If we missed your birthday,
please let us know so it won't
happen again.

Dover Church of Christ's
Singles Breakfast
Every Saturday, 9:00 AM
Bayou Cafe

In SEARCH of the
Lord's Way

Little Rock's KARK-TV 4
(Sunday 8 AM)

THOSE TO SERVE

June 18, 2006

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Rex McDaniel
Rick Hollis

Communion

Podium: Donny Forehand
Serve: Alan Boatright
Allen Veasman
Blake Walters
Brent Hottinger

Scripture Reading

Brett Walters

**Sunday P.M.
Prayers**

Chris Moss
Brent Hottinger

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.
Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.
Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Chris and Amanda Besterfeldt

Communion to Shut-Ins

Alan Boatright
Allen Veasman

Greeters

Robert and Juanita Bird

**Wednesday Night
Devotional**

June 21, 2006

Donny Forehand

Meeting Times
Sunday Morning Bible Classes
9:45 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship
10:45 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship
6:00 P.M.
Ladies Tuesday Bible Class
10:00 A.M.
Wednesday Bible Classes
7:00 P.M.

Minister: Micah Williams
Church Office: 479-331-3428
Or Cell: 479-264-9244

Elders:

William Boley 858-7131
Jim Killer 331-2802
Allen Veasman 331-2156
Sid Womack 967-2367

Deacons:

Chris Besterfeldt
Donny Forehand
Brent Hottinger
Chris Loper
Rex McDaniel
Chris Moss
Joe Miller

Nursery Attendants:

Sunday Class: Patsy Wisbrock
Kaeli Miller
Wednesday Class: Marilyn Veasman

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Dover Church of Christ
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