

## His Commandments Are Not Burdensome

Previously, we saw how Cain's attitude "*opened him up*" to Satan's influence. In this Brief, we will examine another "*case study*" in order to avoid similar mistakes. Central to this understanding is that "*the devil can't force anyone to do anything*". However, we can invite his influence by choosing to disobey God's word.

A classic example of this is Judas Iscariot, who conspired to betray Jesus Christ to the religio-political ruling class in Judea. Prior to this, Judas was stealing from "*the money box*" that financed Christ's work over a three year period of time,

*Then one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray him, said, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii (about one year's wage for a worker) and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it (John 12:4-6; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

So Judas was guilty of breaking God's commandment regarding theft (cf. Ex. 20:15). Had he repented and restored what was stolen, he could have



Satan Entered Judas

*And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill him (Christ)...<sup>3</sup> Then **Satan entered Judas** who was numbered among the twelve (disciples).<sup>4</sup> So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray him to them.<sup>5</sup> And **they were glad, and agreed to give him money** (Luke 22:2-5; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

Therefore, breaking God's word is not only problematic for the perpetrator, it can also harm others. For instance, Cain went from being resentful and angry, to murdering Abel; while Judas went from being greedy and a thief, to an accomplice in Christ's murder. Therefore, breaking God's word can cause harm to our neighbor. Both the Apostle Paul and John made the connection that *you can not truly love your neighbor while breaking God's law,*

*For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Romans 13:9; emphasis added).*

**For this is the love of God that we keep His commandments. And (that) His commandments are not burdensome** (1John 5:3; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

By dismantling God's laws, we are harming ourselves and our neighbors. Christ predicted that this will occur exponentially before his return, and many people will become callous about the suffering and hardship being experienced by their neighbors,

been forgiven, but he didn't. Therefore, he chose to "*live in sin*". Anyone in this state is open to further influence by Satan, which means matters will only get worse,

And *because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold* (Matthew 24: 12; emphasis added).

In the next Brief, we will see the connection between lawless behavior and the chaos it causes. This chaos will work to Satan's advantage for awhile, but it will end in the same destruction described in Genesis 1:2; unless Christ returns to cut it short (cf. Mt. 24:22).

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