

The Gospel of Judas - a lost book of the Bible?

Recently, the Christian world was put in frenzy because a supposedly lost book of the gospel has been found, the gospel of Judas. In the minds of many this text should radically alter their understanding of the relationship of Judas to Jesus Christ.

Where was this found? This scroll was stolen from an Egyptian tomb in the 1970s and travelled to 3 continents going through several hands of antique buyers. In it, Judas instead of being a traitor is presented as a hero. Jesus declared to Judas that he would excel all his other disciples because he has a better and more complete understanding of the mission and purpose of the life of Christ. It was Jesus who urged Judas to betray him so that Jesus can be liberated from his sinful body and be a free spirit. These words were spoken when Jesus and Judas had private conversations in the last week before the Passover. In this gospel, it is supposed that Jesus said to Judas, "Step away from others and I shall tell you of the mysteries of the kingdom. It is also possible for you to reach it" and "You will exceed all of them. For you will sacrifice the man that clothes me".

What are we to think of this new document? As Christians we are to reject this so - called "Gospel of Judas". I offer three reasons:

1. By reading this document.

It will be clear to anyone who reads it that it is unlike the 4 gospels of Jesus Christ of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. It contains Gnostic ideas. It was reported that Jesus laughed several times at the Passover meal. But the entire Scriptures nowhere presents Jesus given to laughter. Thus, it is likely that this fictional history was fabricated by an anonymous writer and called it the "gospel of Judas".

2. It is not part of the Christian canon of Scripture.

The canon of Scripture consisting of 66 books is closed and completed. None is to be added or subtracted. The early church knew of the existence of this writing and did not recognise it as Holy Scripture.

3. Its doctrine is heretical.

It contains the heresy of Gnosticism that plagued the early church supposing that Jesus believed this Gnostic error that he will rid of his sinful flesh by dying on the cross and be a free spirit. Irenaeus, a church father documented it the book, "Against Heresies" in A.D. 180 and identified as heresy. The church rejected this heresy because it was contrary to the teaching of the 4 gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Brethren, let us reaffirm our belief in the 66 books of the bible as Holy Scriptures and nothing is to be added or subtracted.

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