Luke 6:16

Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor.

We all know how Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus and sold Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.
I also wrote a devotional on how Judas was sent out with the other eleven to heal people and even cast out demons. (go to **past devotionals** and read the devotional for **Mark 6:12-13**)

But one insight on how Judas Iscariot became a traitor is in one word in today's devotional verse that Luke writes, and that word is "***became***". You see, we think that Judas was always bad and was always looking for a way to betray Jesus, but if you read the Gospels, it wasn't until the end of Jesus' ministry and before He was crucified that Judas Iscariot was now considering betraying Jesus.

> ✞ **Matthew 26:14-16** ***Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.***

So, why would Judas Iscariot even do such a thing? Well the answer is a few verses before this one.

> ✞ **Matthew 26:6-9** ***And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor."***

And if you read John chapter 12 you will read that Judas Iscariot was the one who asked this question. And why would he ask? John tells us why.

> ✞ **John 12:4-6** ***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 and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but*** <u>***because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it***</u>***.*** (underlined for emphasis)

So why am I walking backwards in explaining this? Because of that one word "***became***".
As I said at the beginning of this devotional, Judas Iscariot did not start looking for ways to betray Jesus three years earlier, when Jesus first called him to be one of His Disciples. No, it happened over time, and that's how it is with sin. We hear of shootings in schools and murders and robberies and kidnapping and slavery and prostitution and on and on. But not one person ever started out thinking at the beginning of their life that they want to grow up and be a

murderer, or just woke up one morning and think that "I think I'll go shoot all my classmates at school today." No, it's all a process of sin, where it starts out small, maybe as just a thought, and like leaven in bread dough, it starts to permeate their every being until it grows into full grown, over the top sin.

We all need to examine our lives and think, have I grown in the last year or even month as a Christian, or am I no longer the same Christian I used to be, slowly, like a slug falling back into my old lifestyle?

If you don't see yourself growing as a Christian, then you need to be cautious, because it's all what we know as a "backslidden" state. Meaning you are going back into the world and if you keep going backwards, you could end up like Judas Iscariot and just turn your back on Christianity and Jesus totally.

- ☩ **James 1:14-15** *But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.*

- ☩ **Revelation 2:4-5** *Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.*