

# Edmund's biblical journey through the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

By Andy Westergaard

# History of Judas

Following Matthew's version of the story as it best fits Edmund

- One of Jesus's 12 twelve Apostles
- Matthew wrote that Judas did not betray Jesus until after they offered him 30 pieces of silver
- Betrayed Jesus because of greed
- According to Matthew he repents, returns the money, and hangs himself
- Following the Gospel of Judas, Jesus tells him that he will rule those who curse him



# Edmund and Judas similarities

- Fully convinced to betray family/ Jesus after being given something (turkish delight/ 30 pieces of silver)
- Was told they would rule over people
- Betrayed people because of greed
- Redeemed themselves
- Felt guilt for what they had done

# Edmund and Judas differences

- Edmund is a child/ Judas an adult
- Edmund is given Turkish Delight that is bewitched/ Judas is persuaded to betray for silver
- Judas is told that the people he'd rule over would curse him/ Edmund was told he'd be King even over his siblings
- Edmund was not told any of this by Aslan while Judas was told by Jesus about ruling

# Through the eyes of Edmund Pevensie: Family Dynamics

In the Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, Edmund is at the age where you're still a child, but on the verge of being a young adult. The time when fantastic make believe of a child is no more, and the grueling chores and responsibility add up as a young adult. Stuck in two worlds. It does not help poor Edmund, being the middle child either. Peter and Susan are very mature and responsible older siblings always watching, especially after Lucy, the youngest. Peter is the oldest, the elder boy, who gives Edmund a hard time. Susan watches them all. Lucy is a very innocent imaginative child. Edmund, in the middle, does not get much attention, and when he does, it's usually something his older siblings disapprove of him for. Add the fact they are children of London during World War II, moved to the country at a strangers house, adds to the mayhem.

# Meeting the White Witch

When Edmund enters the wardrobe after Lucy, Lewis yet again hints to the reader the importance of not shutting the door when in the wardrobe. Edmund shuts the door, unlike the other times where it stays open just a crack. So if anything, his adventure into the wardrobe will be rather different than Lucy's was. When he meets her, he is bewitched, and yet slightly wary of her throughout their first encounter. If it weren't for the enchanted Turkish Delight that ensnared him always thinking of rooms full of the sweet.



# Leaving the Beavers House

When Edmund leaves the Beaver's house he goes alone, driven by the need for more Turkish Delight and to be King over his siblings. After the trouble of lying to his siblings and failed attempts to get them to go to her castle, he goes alone not realizing the danger he is in. Some can argue that Edmund had a choice, while I would argue that he didn't as those Turkish Delight he had were magic ones that the Witch gave. It was said that if given the chance, one could eat and eat whatever food they wanted until they died.



# Forgiveness

Upon his rescue, Edmund speaks alone to Aslan, and what is said is left to the imagination of the readers, for it is never said, nor mentioned again. Edmund apologizes to each sibling and they try to say words of comfort back. It's a short bit their reunion before they are interrupted by the White Witch coming to claim the blood she is due. Again the readers do not get to know the exact words of the Lion and the Witches talk, but this time we do know what bargain they struck. Aslan would take Edmund's place at the Stone to be sacrificed. We never, as the reader get to read what Edmund's thoughts and feelings are when he eventually finds out Aslan's great sacrifice for him is, we can only imagine what that would mean to a child at that age would go through.





# Redemption

Edmund is already forgiven by Aslan himself, and his siblings, and Aslan's army. Not much is said about the battle between the White witch and the Narnians, but we are told that Edmund figured out to break the Witches wand to help even the odds, and save Peter from turning into stone himself. That act of bravery to face her again when so many others had been turned to stone before him definitely redeems himself of his past crimes.



# Conclusion

Edmund was more forced to betray his family due to taking those magic sweets while Judas was more persuaded. Some argue in the Gospel of Judas that he was doing the hardest part helping Jesus die so he could leave Earth, but that is some speculation. I think Lewis in his version gave Judas a full redemption in his story in Edmund. It was more out of his power and will to resist, and it was a lesson for children on the consequences of an individual's actions. Both end up ruling people, but luckily for Edmund the people do not curse him. It might be a rather touchy uncomfortable moment that is brought up from time to time as seen in the other books when they go back. The small reminder in Prince Caspian when the others grab their presents from Father Christmas while Edmund had nothing from that time.

# References Photos

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