

Sin When it is Finished

Matthew 27: 3-10

Undoubtedly we have read one of the most tragic accounts in all of Scripture. I am sure that the majority of us are familiar with the life of Judas. He is a well known character even in modern society. He was one of the twelve, one who walked with Jesus experiencing the same truth and confirmation of Christ's deity as the other eleven. He witnessed the miracles, heard the Scriptures expounded, kissed the Door of salvation, and yet died lost without hope in Christ.

Judas stands as the timeless example of utter failure. The other disciples were ordinary men, just as he was. They too experienced doubt and failure. They were not perfect, but they believed in One who was. Mothers today name their children after several of the disciples: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Matthew, Philip, Thomas, Nathanael, but I have never heard of anyone naming their child Judas. The life of Judas exemplifies betrayal, greed, sin, and ruin.

We have read the account of the tragic end of Judas' life. His was a life dominated by fleshly desires and the sin it brings, culminating in a horrid death. As I read this passage I was reminded of: [James 1:15 – Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.](#) Let's take a few moments to look in on that sinister day as we consider the [certainties](#) revealed concerning: [Sin When it is Finished](#).

I. The Defilement of Judas (3-5) – Here we discover several details concerning the defilement of Judas. Consider:

A. His Realization (3) – [Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he \[Christ\] was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders.](#)

Take a moment to consider the events of the past few hours. Judas had been among the disciples as they broke bread in the Upper Room. He had been dismissed of Jesus to carry out his devious plan. Knowing where to find Jesus, he led the Roman soldiers to the Garden of Gethsemane, where he betrayed Jesus with a kiss. Judas now realized that Jesus had been condemned of the high priest and the Roman authorities. The realization that Jesus would suffer crucifixion, even though He was innocent, began to sink in on Judas. No doubt guilt began to grip his heart. Sadly he had so rejected the Lord that his heart had become hard toward the leading of the Spirit.

- There is a great truth in this passage. We all have a conscious that reveals right from wrong. I am convinced that the Spirit of God deals with all people regarding their sin, revealing Christ as Lord. Regardless of one's spiritual state, eventually there is a realization regarding sin. Even the vilest of sinners will come to the realization that their sin is wrong. It is dangerous to ignore our conscious and the pleading of the Spirit.

B. His Regret (3) – Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he [Christ] was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders. Here we discover an important aspect of this tragic account. As Judas pondered recent events, including his own actions, he repented himself. We must understand this does not speak of repentance as one would commonly think. This means “*to be concerned; to regret.*” It carries the idea of “*little more than a selfish dread of facing the consequences for what one has done.*” This does not reveal that Judas turned from his sin and unto Jesus. It reveals his deep concern for the consequences he knew he would face for his betrayal. It appears that Judas is not sorry for his sin, only sorry that he must now face judgment for his sin.

- Is that attitude not prevalent today as well? Many today are engaging in sin, and even enjoying it, but there is no real remorse for their sin. There is no desire to abandon their sin for a relationship with Christ. When trouble comes, they may regret getting caught and having to face the consequences of sin, but there is no sorrow for the act of sin.

C. His Response (3b-4a) – Judas...brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, [4] Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. Here is the great tragedy in Judas' life. He had experienced guilt for his sin. He was forced to deal with the dread of coming judgment. Judas must've been horrified at the thought of facing God for rejecting and betraying His Son, but he never looks to Jesus through eyes of faith. Rather than coming to Jesus in repentance, seeking salvation, he turns to those he had conspired with in betraying Jesus. I am convinced that Judas realized that Jesus was the Christ, that He was who He said he was, but he refused to receive Christ as his personal Savior. Maybe Judas somehow thought returning the money would pardon his great sin.

- The world needs to take a close look at the life of Judas. Trying to undo wrongs will never result in salvation. Seeking to rectify past injustices will not make one acceptable unto God. Simply feeling sorry for sin, and even realizing that Jesus is the Christ is never enough. God does not classify sin. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Sin brings separation. You can seek to rectify every wrong you have ever committed, but if you fail to come to Christ by faith, receiving Him as your Savior based on the finished work of Calvary, you are yet in your sin. It is futile to look to this world for forgiveness of sin. It is futile to seek a means of righteousness apart from Jesus Christ. He alone can pardon, cleanse, and save! Man isn't a sinner because he sins; he sins because of the Adamic nature within.

D. His Rejection (5) – And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. Judas rejected Christ for the last time and went and hanged himself. He committed suicide, dying in his sin, eternally separated from Christ, he entered hell lost and undone.

- There is not a more tragic account in all the Bible. This man had walked with Jesus. He had experienced His majesty and the undeniable evidence that He was the Christ. He even declared the innocence of Christ. If anyone should've accepted Jesus as the Messiah, Judas should have. He chose to ignore the evidence and remain in his sin. [Sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death.](#)
- The end of Judas' sin is the same for all who reject Christ in this life. All will not commit suicide because of their sin, but the end result will be the same. All who reject and deny Christ will face eternal death and separation. The wages of sin is death.

I. The Defilement of Judas (3-5)

II. The Resentment of the Priests (4-8) – This passage also offers a revealing look at the chief priests and religious elite of that day. Notice:

A. Their Apathy (4) – [Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.](#) Judas has contemplated his actions, dreading the consequences he will face, and has come to return the thirty pieces of silver he was paid of the chief priests to betray Jesus. He has openly declared the innocence of Christ before them, and yet they are unmoved. Really this should come as no surprise. They too had many opportunities to interact with Jesus. They had listened as He spoke with unparalleled wisdom. They were witness to the great miracles He performed. However they wanted to rid society of the One who threatened their legalistic religious approach. I am convinced these men knew Jesus was innocent of the charges brought against Him, and yet they were content to cast their voices against Him. They basically told Judas, “You have made your choice; we don't care about the facts. Do what you will with the money. We have achieved our goal.”

- Are many not that way today as well? There is no interest in truth for many today. They have no desire for a relationship with Jesus. They are apathetic to the sacrifice He made for their sin. They are only interested in achieving their own purpose, regardless of the cost. Many are unwilling to look to Jesus because they know their lifestyle is contrary to His desire for their lives. Many today have little, if any, regard for the precious blood that was shed for their sin.

B. Their Hypocrisy (6) – [And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.](#) I was amazed at the hypocrisy of the high priests as I read these words. They had conspired with Judas to betray and condemn an innocent man, and not just any man, the Son of God. This could be compared to “hit money” today. They

knew their actions were wrong, and yet they wanted to appear righteous. Since the money had been returned, they felt as if they must do the “right thing.” This was blood money; it would be unthinkable to put it in the common treasury to do the work of God with. They hoped to conceal their inward depravity with an outward show of piety.

- Once again we discover a great truth that remains today. Folks will seek any means necessary to attempt to cover their sin and appear righteous. They want the world to think they are doing the right thing, and yet deep down they know their hearts are far from God. [Num.32:23b](#) – and be sure your sin will find you out. [Heb.4:13](#) – Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

C. Their Conspiracy (7-8) – [And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.](#) [8] [Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.](#) Once again they wanted to appear righteous before men. They wanted others to think they were genuinely concerned for the poor and needy. With the money paid to betray Jesus, a field was purchased to bury strangers in. Surely the high priests sounded their own trumpet as they shared this with society. “We felt for those who passed away among us with no place for proper burial, so we have purchased a field for them to receive a dignified burial.”

- What a tragedy we discover. These men had no sympathy for Christ. They could care less that He was in fact the Son of God, Savior of the world. There was no thought given to His innocence, and yet they wanted to be perceived as compassionate toward strangers.
- Each of us must guard against such behavior. Often we care more for the physical needs in life than we do the spiritual needs of others. We will go out of our way to help out someone with a physical or financial need, but often we will not open our mouths to share Jesus. May we develop a love and compassion that is pleasing to the Lord, not just approved of men!

I. The Defilement of Judas (3-5)

II. The Resentment of the Priests (4-8)

III. The Fulfillment of Scripture (9-10) – As I said this is one of the most tragic accounts in all the Bible. Judas kissed the Door of salvation and died lost. Those who should have recognized Jesus through the teachings of Scripture rejected Him. The mock trial and following crucifixion was the greatest injustice the world has ever known. However, this was not some unfortunate chain of events that ended in tragedy. This was divinely orchestrated of God. Consider:

A. The Prophecy (9-10) – Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value; [10] And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me. Hundreds of years prior to these events, Jeremiah had prophesied they would come to pass. Long before Jesus stood before Pilate falsely accused, long before Judas developed a love for money and conspired with the chief priests, long before the religious elite wanted rid of the Man who challenged their legalistic policies, God had planned for this day to come. The betrayal of Judas resulting in the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus were definitely no accident. Long before humanity was ever created in the Garden, God had a plan for the redemption of sinful men. This is just one of the hundreds of prophecies our Lord fulfilled as He came to earth as a man.

B. The Sovereignty (10) – And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me. As this verse confirms, God was in sovereign control of these events. Christ was betrayed by one of His own. He was despised and rejected by those He came to save. He suffered the cruelest of deaths ever recorded. He bore the sins of humanity as He bled and died upon the cross. All of this happened as God had planned. Jesus fulfilled the sovereign will of God as He offered Himself as the eternal sacrifice and atonement for sin.

- Each time I consider the events surrounding the crucifixion of Christ, I am saddened by what He endured. It is difficult to imagine the rejection He faced. As difficult as it is for us to comprehend, we must keep in mind this was the will of God. Christ freely gave His life for our sin. He willingly bore our sin. He came to this earth to fulfill redemption's plan. We have the privilege of salvation and the hope of eternal life because of Christ.

Conclusion: As we close this morning, I must ask where you stand with Jesus. Judas knew Him very well. He had walked with Him for about three years, sharing very intimate and moving experiences with Jesus, and yet he betrayed Him. Judas died lost because He refused Christ as Savior and Lord. I want all to understand that simply being acquainted with who Jesus is isn't enough. It isn't enough to have heard of Him or read of Him in the Bible. It isn't enough to recognize and accept that He is the Son of God. You must see yourself sinful and separated from God, in need of salvation that is only available through Christ.

This is certainly a tragic account, but it was all within the plan of God. Christ died so that you might live. [Heb.12:2 – Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.](#) Do you know Christ as your personal Savior?