



## LESSON 156 - MATTHEW 27:3-10 THE DEATH OF JUDAS

Two days before the passover, Judas' last means of obtaining replacement money to cover up his theft had dissipated when Jesus did not agree to the selling of some of the costly perfume a woman was using to anoint Him. Since this was the third time this had happened, this made Judas very angry and led to his approaching the chief priests to make a covenant with them to betray Jesus. (Mt 26:2-16)

It is my thought that Judas may have never actually intended for Jesus to die through his betrayal of Him, but that it was a means of getting money to cover up his thievery of the disciples' money, of which he was treasurer. (Jn 12:6, 13:29) Obviously Judas hadn't listened to Jesus in the many times He had prophesied of His death at the hands of the chief priests and scribes and rulers (Mk 9:31, Mt 17:22-23, Mt 19:17-19, etc.), but then neither had the other disciples listened and believed Him.

Either during or soon after Herod's interrogation and return of Jesus to Pilate, Judas realized that this time Jesus was not going to be miraculously delivered from His enemies, as He had been so many times in the three years of His ministry. (Scriptures concerning the plans and attempts on Jesus' life:

Mt 12:14 (Lk 6:10-11), 21:45-46, 26:3-5; Lk 4:28-30, 11:53-54, 19:47-48, 20:19-20;

Jn 5:14-16, 18, 7:1-2, 25, 30, 32, 44-46, 8:20, 59, 10:31-33,39, 11:7-8, 44-54, 57.)

Whatever Judas had seen by this time in the trials convinced him that Jesus was doomed. Judas realized he was the betrayer in truth, as Jesus had said in the garden of Gethsemane (Lk 22:48). In his despair and desperate desire to rid himself of the convicting presence of the thirty pieces of silver, his blood money, Judas returned to the chief priests and elders (Mt 27:3-10), and threw the money at the feet of the Jews, saying, "I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent Blood." Then he departed and went to a field, hanged himself on a tree, deserting his family, bringing curses upon them. (Acts 1:15-20, Psalm 109:1-20) (Judas' confession after his betrayal was similar to the thief on the cross scorning Jesus, but then later recanting by calling Him innocent and not deserving of any punishment. Mt 27:41-44, Lk 23:39-43) The difference is the thief on the cross made his confession to Jesus, and asked for mercy, while the thief Judas made his confession to wicked confederate priests. Result: the thief on the cross went to paradise (Lk 23:43); Judas went to hell. (Jn 17:12)

Judas was a man of impulse, a schemer, a deceiver. He had heard the Word of God many, many times over the three and a half years that he had traveled and been with Jesus (Judas has been with Him from His baptism Acts 1:21-22), but lacked the wisdom the Word would have given him, had he applied it to his soul. Judas did not remember Christ's clear teachings on repentance, forgiveness, loving enemies, etc., and so he did not go and bow down in total abject sorrow before Jesus and repent of his evil doings. He did not seek forgiveness from the only One Who could have given it.

"Judas lacked the wisdom the Word would have given him, had he applied it to his soul." How often has that been true of all of us at one time or another. The Word of God must be respected, believed, and applied, for it to do any good in us. Otherwise, it is like seed that dies bringing forth no growth and no harvest in us. When you hear or read the Word of God, first ask the Holy Spirit, "How does this apply to me?" or "Please show me how to incorporate Your Truth into my heart."

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