

Gospel of Matthew “Judas and the Cross”
Matthew 27:1-10
June 30, 2024

Matthew 27:1-10

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. 2 And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor.

3 Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, 4 saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” They said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself.” 5 And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. 6 But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money.” 7 So they took counsel and bought with them the potter’s field as a burial place for strangers. 8 Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. 9 Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, 10 and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord directed me.”

How did Judas actually betray Jesus?

Matthew 26:14-16

14 Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests **15** and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. **16** And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

Why does Judas do this?

Matthew 26:48

48 Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.”

Matthew 21:29

29 And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went.

Matthew 21:32

32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

Matthew 27:4

4 saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” They said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself.”

Judas is a tragic picture of every life that misunderstands Jesus.

Peter stops and weeps.
Judas decides he still needs to do something.

Psalm 51:17

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Matthew Henry Quote -

“Let us think as bad as we can of sin, provided we do not think that it is unpardonable; let us despair of help in ourselves, but not of help in God.”

What would have happened if Judas had just waited until Sunday?

“The cross makes the noose unnecessary.”

Judas' betrayal didn't send Jesus to the cross.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”

Life Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you through the Scriptures during our Sunday gathering?
- What have been your general thoughts and feelings related to Judas? Is he a villain? Misunderstood? Are you sympathetic?
- What do we learn about Jesus as he picks Judas to be one of the twelve?
- What might Judas' betrayal be motivated by? How might Judas' motives reveal our own when we chose something more important than Jesus?
- Judas “changed his mind”, confessed that he had sinned and brought the money back. Is there something you wish he would have done?
- The religious leaders told Judas to “see to it yourself?” How does this highlight the dead-end of our own efforts?
- Discuss the idea that Judas is responsible for his actions and at the same time Jesus chose to go to the cross. Why are both things true and important?
- How can the resurrection reshape despair? What are you worried over and trying to fix right now? How can Jesus' sacrifice and power over sin and death create a new way of working through your worries?