

#1 Matthew 27:1-10 “Sometimes It’s Too Late”

Both Peter and Judas betrayed Jesus! Peter’s failure was followed by tears of shame and guilt, remorse and true repentance, because he believed Jesus was God’s Son. His repentance led to his ultimate restoration and usefulness to God. Judas on the other hand, had sorrow, shame and feelings of guilt – but the results were entirely different because he never sought God’s forgiveness, which led to his suicide and eternal separation from God. It is sad that a person can take themselves from the loving grace of God to the point that is it too late for them to be saved from the wrath to come!

In October of 1821 in a Presbyterian journal published the story of William Pope who died in 1797. While his wife lived he attended a Methodist church, but after her death he became friends with some atheist professors, a disciple of Thomas Paine (author of “The Age of Reason”, who said on his death bed: “If ever the devil had an agent, I have been that one.”) and an alcoholic. He became a mocker of God and the Christian faith and he and his friends used to kick Bibles around the room and tear them up for entertainment. Those with him at death reported he said among other things: #2 *“I have no contrition. I cannot repent. God will damn me. I know the day of grace is past...you see one who is damned forever...Oh eternity! Eternity!...Nothing for me but hell. Come eternal torments...I hate everything God has made, only I have no hatred for the devil-I wish to be with him. I long to be in hell. Do you not see? Do you not see him? He is coming for me.”* (Last Words of Saints and Sinners Herbert Lockyer Pg132)

Unfortunately, I can picture Judas’ last thoughts or words being similar!

#3 1 When morning came, **all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death.**
2 And when they had bound Him, **they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.**

“all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted... to put Him to death.” The leaders of Israel did not have the

right under Roman law to put Jesus to death, so this plot to kill Jesus had to include the Romans. It had been roughly 23 years since the Roman rulers had taken away their power to use the death sentence.

#4 A Rabbi recorded, “When the members of the Sanhedrin found themselves deprived of their power over life and death, a general consternation came over them, they covered their head with ashes and their bodies with sackcloth, exclaiming, “Woe unto to us, for the scepter has departed from Judah, and the Messiah has not come!” They realized a nation which does not have the right of capital punishment is no longer a sovereign nation.

What they didn’t realize was that their Messiah *had* come as Jacob prophesied in: **#5 Genesis 49:10 NASB** “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh (*“to whom it belongs,” or “until he comes to whom it [scepter] belongs.”*) comes, And to him *shall be* the obedience of the peoples. Later in the Book of Numbers Balaam prophesied: **#6 Numbers 24:17 (NKJV)** “I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; **A Scepter shall rise out of Israel...**”

“they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.” The leaders wanted to use the Romans to put Jesus to death – but since He had been arrested for blasphemy - a religious charge which Pilate would not accept - they had to convince Pilate that He was guilty of insurrection against Rome. So they will lie to him, pressure him by manipulating the crowds, and threaten his position with unrest in the country, until they get their way.

#7 3 Then **Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful** and brought back the thirty

pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, "**I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.**" And they said, "**What is that to us? You see to it!**" 5 Then **he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.**

"Judas, His betrayer" Jesus said of him: **#8 Matthew 26:24** (NIV84) The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

#9 John 6:70–71 (NASB95) Jesus answered them, "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and **yet one of you is a devil?**" ⁷¹ Now He meant Judas *the son* of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.

#10 And **John 17:12 (NASB95)** "While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and **I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition ("lost-ness"), so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.**

We are told that he was possessed by Satan: **#11 Luke 22:1–6 (NKJV)** Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near...² And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him...³ **Then Satan entered Judas (at the last supper – John 13:27), surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve.** ⁴ So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. ⁵ And they were glad, and **agreed to give him money.** (So much for the idea that everyone, even a cold blooded killer is a victim and "deserves" mercy instead of justice!)

"seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful" Evidently now that Satan was finished using Judas, He left him and the realization of what he had done came upon him!

Judas evidently felt remorse because he realized that he had condemned an innocent man to death. **#12** The Word means: (A keen feeling of mental unease, as of annoyance (**at the consequences of an act and not having known better.**) or embarrassment, caused by failure or disappointment) His remorse resulted in a grieving sorrow, but it was not complete. **Judas was sorry for what he had done and tried to make amends**, but He never believed that Jesus was the Son of God (Peter another traitor did believe and found forgiveness!). Tom Constable

"I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." He had feelings of guilt, shame and sorrow, but a feeling of sorrow does NOT mean there is real repentance. In fact Matthew intentionally uses the word "remorseful" speaking more to emotions – but not the word that signifies true repentance – a change of mind. True repentance means to change your mind and go a different direction – toward God who you have sinned against. **#13** **2 Corin. 7:8** Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it...because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. 10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, **but worldly sorrow brings death.**

Note: If you want to "find" God and find forgiveness for your sins – you have to "run" to Him without reservation. **#14** **Jeremiah 29:13 (NKJV)** And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. Just being sorry is NOT enough!

"What is that to us? You see to it!" In other words, "You did your job, we have the One we were after. You've been paid and we have no further need of you. You can hear the disdain in their words. **#15** "Sinners, under conviction, will find their old companions in sin but miserable comforters. It is usual for those that love the treason, to hate the traitor. Craig Bloomberg

“he threw down the pieces of silver...” The money meant nothing to him now because the idol he had served had deserted him also! He was the “keeper of the purse” (who stole from it! John 12:6) a man who loved money, and it helped cause his destruction. (False gods will always do that!)

Matthew Henry makes the point that He confessed the betraying of innocent blood, *but did not confess that wicked love of money*, which was the root of this evil. **#16 1 Timothy 6:9–10 (NLT)** But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ **For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.** And some people, craving money, **have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.**

“and went and hanged himself.” #17 He confesses to the wrong group of people (IE God & Jesus) and then simply gives up on life. Craig Bloomberg The end of Judas is sad, but not surprising in light of his close relationship with Satan, who comes to kill, steal and destroy. **(John 10:10)**

***Is suicide an unforgivable sin?** No but it is evil and wicked, and one scheme of Satan to end the life of people he has under his control. Wickedness eventually brings people to utter hopelessness and the best thing to do at that point is to run to Jesus and offer Him your hopeless life to use as He sees fit. You’re done with it – why not give it to Him! Ending your life adds waste upon waste and is a selfish, faithless statement to God that He is not able to help you! Peter was a bitter failure, but he put his faith in Jesus; Judas had only worldly sorrow which led to death. **(2 Corin. 7:10)**

#18 When tragedy strikes you with remorse, remember that God watches, cares, and brings life out of tragedy. **Don’t imagine that killing yourself accomplishes anything. Don’t even think about it. Allow the**

Holy Spirit and your believing friends to help you through the worst part, and trust God to restore your life. Barton

Judas had taken himself beyond the reach of God's love and ended his life as Satan wanted him to. **#19 Hebrews 6:4–6 (NLT)** For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come—⁶ and who then turn away from God. (Though these verses apply to those of the faith going back to Judaism – they also fit Judas who walked with Jesus, saw and experienced the power of the Holy Spirit – but did not belong to Christ, only to himself!)

#20 6 But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, **"It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood."** 7 And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. 8 Therefore that field has been called **the Field of Blood** to this day.

"It is not lawful...they are the price of blood." They had no problem paying temple money to betray an innocent man! They were also false witnesses and this adherence to the letter of the law in not receiving back this money is what Jesus was exposing earlier in **#21 Matthew 23:23–24 (NIV84)** "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness...²⁴ You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

#22 9 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by **Jeremiah the prophet**, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver,

the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, 10 "and gave them for the potter's field, as the LORD directed me."

“Jeremiah the prophet” Actually this was combination of prophecies by Zechariah & Jeremiah: **#23 TURN: Zechariah 11:12–13** (NKJV) Then I said to them, “If it is agreeable to you, give *me* my wages; and if not, refrain.” **#23a** So they weighed out for my wages thirty *pieces* of silver. ¹³ And the LORD said to me, “Throw it to the potter”—that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty *pieces* of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter.

#24 TURN: Jeremiah 19:1 (NIV84) This is what the LORD says: “Go and buy a clay jar from a potter. Take along some of the elders of the people and of the priests ² and go out to the Valley of Ben Hinnom, near the entrance of the Potsherd Gate. There proclaim the words I tell you, ³ and say, ‘Hear the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah and people of Jerusalem. This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Listen! I am going to bring a disaster on this place that will make the ears of everyone who hears of it tingle. ⁴ For they have forsaken me and made this a place of foreign gods; they have burned sacrifices in it to gods that neither they nor their fathers nor the kings of Judah ever knew, and they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent. ⁵ They have built the high places of Baal to burn their sons in the fire as offerings to Baal—something I did not command or mention, nor did it enter my mind. ⁶ So beware, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when people will no longer call this place Topheth or the Valley of Ben Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter.

“the potter's field, to bury strangers” Unclean money buys an unclean place for unclean people! Craig Bloomberg

#25 Acts 1:16–19 (NLT) “Brothers,” he said, “the Scriptures had to be fulfilled concerning Judas, who guided those who arrested Jesus. This was

predicted long ago by the Holy Spirit, speaking through King David. ¹⁷ Judas was one of us and shared in the ministry with us.” ¹⁸ (Judas had bought a field with the money he received for his treachery. Falling headfirst there, his body split open, spilling out all his intestines. ¹⁹ The news of his death spread to all the people of Jerusalem, and they gave the place the Aramaic name *Akeldama*, which means “Field of Blood.”)

These men were condemned by their own words and actions! Some of them, however, later found true repentance, on the Day of Pentecost. **#26 TURN: Acts 2:22 (NIV84)** “Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him...**36** “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, **whom you crucified**, both Lord and Christ.” ³⁷ **When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”** ³⁸ Peter replied, **“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” ⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ **Those who accepted his message were baptized**, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.