

Matthew 27:1-10 “Judas: Profile of a Traitor”

8.5.18

What do you see here?



What you see is a contrast between raspberries and blackberries. How 'bout this:



Up and down. How 'bout this:



This:

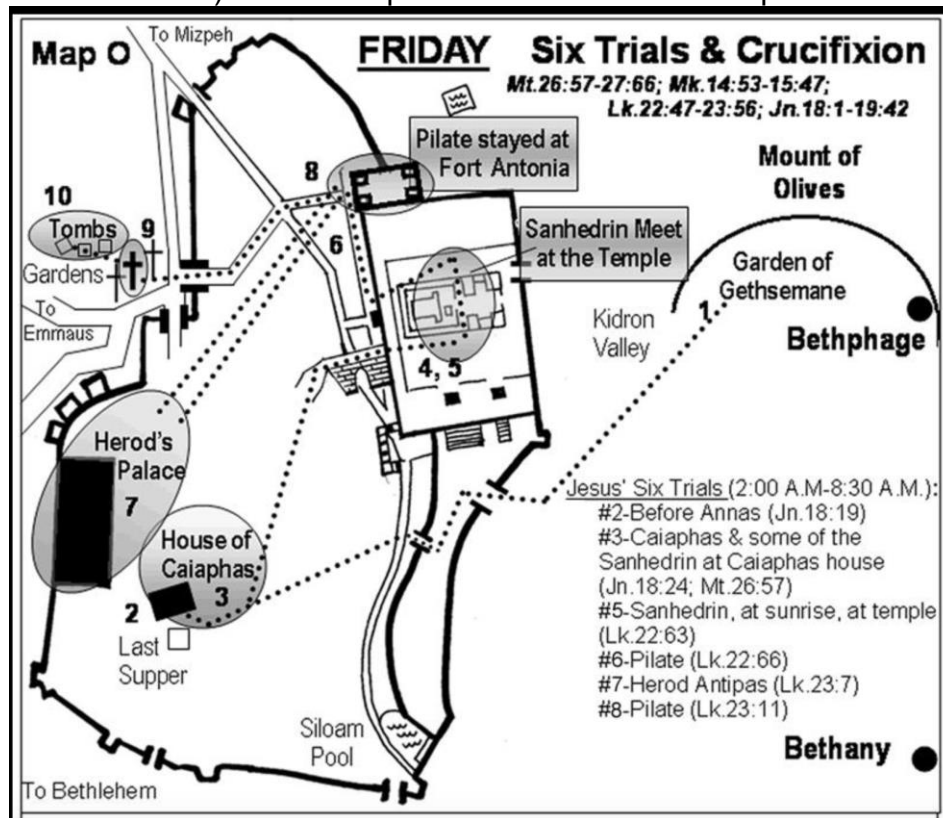


Life and death. Last one...



Jesus and Judas. They are as big of contrasts as up and down, guilt and innocence, life and death. The contrast of Jesus and Judas. One, the Son of God, the other the Son of Perdition.

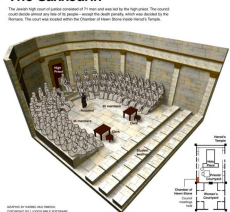
Today we're going to see contrasts. Contrasts between innocence and guilt, and life and death. It's Friday morning. Jesus will be dead by 3 pm this day. He's been betrayed, denied and illegally tried. It's daybreak and He is going to be taken from the Pit in the basement of the house of Caiaphas (the prison system of the Jews) to the Temple. Take a look at this map...



Remember, Jesus goes through 6 trials before His death.

He has been led from the Mount of Olives (see the hump on the right hand side of the map) to the house of Caiaphas #3. He has been kept in the pit and it's now daybreak and He's being taken to the Temple #4. He is now in the Chamber of Hewn Stones before the full Sanhedrin. Remember this depiction...

The Sanhedrin



Jesus is bound and the Sanhedrin is going to levy their official sentence. For whatever reason, it seems that Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin got cold feet with their hastily gathered group that met at Caiaphas' house in the wee hours of Friday morning, so they can make things APPEAR to look legal. What a twisted form of justice. When you're evil, you don't think straight. **Watch this now...**

Matthew 27:1-10

¹ 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."

See this depiction of Jesus in the Chamber of Hewn Stones:



The Jews have finished their 3 trials and rendered the verdict: GUILTY! See the chart:

OVERVIEW OF JESUS' TRIALS				
	Trial	Scripture	Judge	Decision
Religious Trials Jewish	First	John 18:12-14	Annas	OK to proceed
	Second	Matt. 26:57-68	Caiaphas	Death sentence; charge of blasphemy
	Third	Matt. 27:1-2	Sanhedrin	Death sentence made legal
Secular Trials Roman	Fourth	John 18:28-38	Pilate	Not guilty
	Fifth	Luke 23:6-12	Herod	Not guilty
	Sixth	John 18:39-19:6	Pilate	Not guilty; turned over to the Jews

There had to be two types of trials because the Jews could not carry out the death penalty under Roman law

Now they need the Romans to finish the deed...only the Romans could execute. We're coming to the trials of the Romans: 4, 5 and 6. He's now bound again and being taken to Pilate. **Now I want you to notice carefully verse 3.**

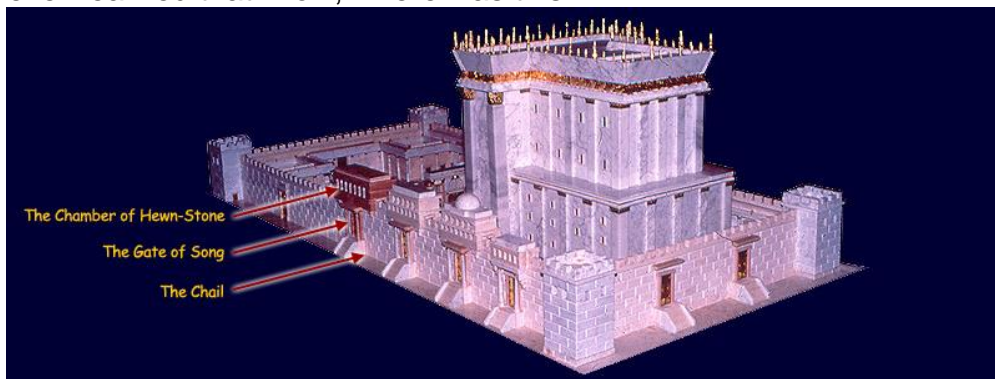
Matthew 27:3

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,

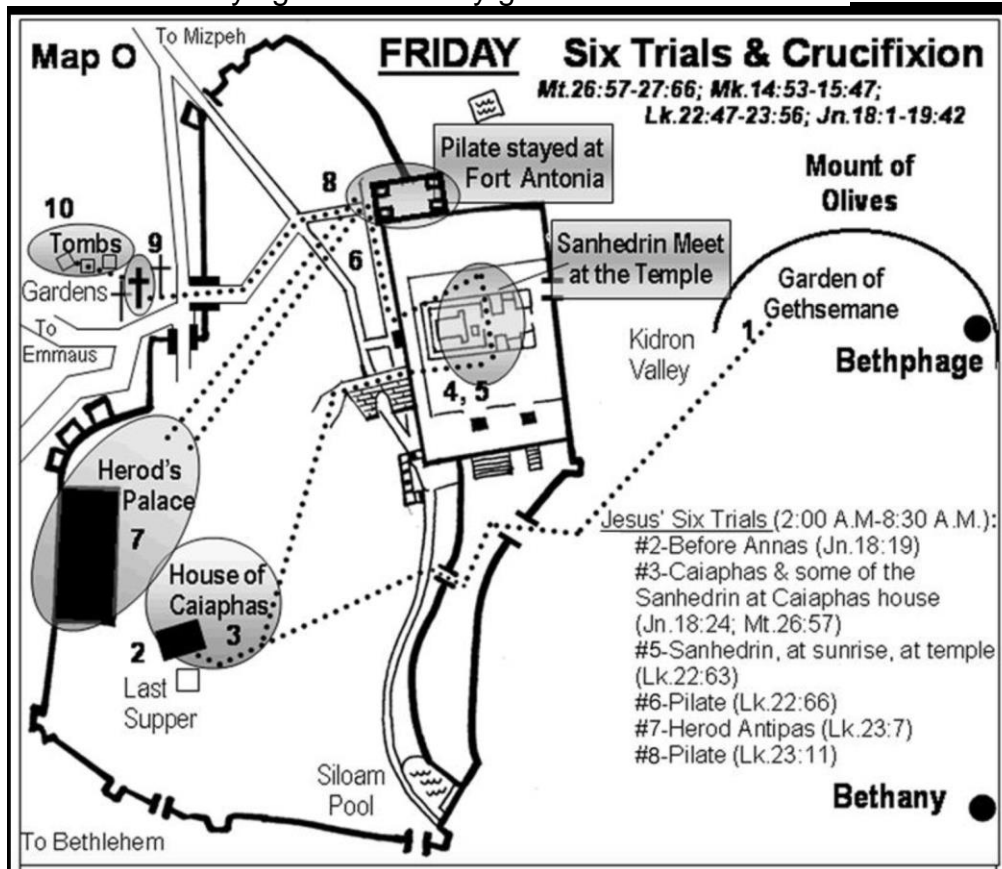
Judas has been carrying bribe money under his robe for a couple of days now. 30 pieces of silver, to be exact, the price of a common slave...worth 4 month's wages and now I believe he's absolutely eaten up by guilt. Matthew records that Judas **saw Jesus condemned**. Now I wanted to know what that meant. Did Judas actually see Jesus? Let's do some digging... I looked up the words in the original language. The Greek word for "SAW" is:

SAW: (Greek: Horao)-to see with the eye.

Judas actually saw Jesus (had a visual experience) after He had been condemned. He physically saw Jesus. I never realized that! Now, where was this? Remember...



The Chamber of Hewn Stones...where the Sanhedrin was trying to "make it official" by meeting in the early morning. This is in the Temple compound and without question, Judas had to have seen Jesus being transported from the Chamber of Hewn Stones, as Jesus was being led to Fort Antonia, where Pilate was staying at the military garrison for the soldiers. **See the map.**



See the middle of the map, (the Temple Compound, #4, #5) Remember, the Sanhedrin's place of meeting is at the Temple. So, Jesus is led from there (#4/5) to #6 where Pilate was staying at Fort Antonia. **Judas had to have been lingering around the Temple to SEE visually, with his eyes, what happened.**

I think back to Peter last week. He saw Jesus being led from Caiaphas' house too, didn't he? Peter was devastated by his denials. He went out and wept bitterly. What would Judas do? Is there any remorse at all? After all, Judas had spent close to three years with Jesus. He had seen Jesus heal the sick, raise the dead, make food out of thin air, walk on water! He had seen Jesus show compassion and love to the downcast and the unwanted... He had seen all of this...and had experienced the intimacy of late nights around camp fires, journeys down dusty roads...laughter...tears...joy... FOR THIS!!! 30 pieces of silver! And so he changes his mind and brings back the money...



Oh the torment in this man's soul. Possessed by Satan...motivated by greed, crippled and paralyzed by guilt! Judas' soul was beyond miserable... He was being tortured by his conscience, bedeviled and haunted by his betrayal. **What did he do?** He has seen Jesus, now...maybe...perhaps...he will repent!!

Matthew 27:3

³Then 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,

The word for "changed" is not **metanoia**, the word in the NT that means REPENTANCE, instead, it is the word: **met-A-melo-mai**, which means to be sorry, to have regret, or show remorse. Oh Judas was sorry! Yes, he regretted what he had done...without question, he was feeling great remorse. But, he did not repent!

2 Corinthians 7:10

¹⁰For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

There is a VAST difference between being sorry and repentance!! And you can't be saved unless you repent. To repent means you have a godly sorrow that leads you to change your direction. You decide to walk in another direction. You turn around! Let me show you the difference:

REGRET VS. REPENTANCE

Short lived - no real change	↔	Heart change resulting in a change of behavior
Hating the consequences of sin	↔	Hating sin and embracing Christ
Excusing / justifying / blaming	↔	Full admittance/ ownership of the sin/ failure
Self-focused	↔	God/other focused-grieved they hurt another
Self-effort	↔	Dependence on the Spirit for empowerment
Laziness - easy way out	↔	Willingness to pay the cost to do right
Anger - at the mess or self	↔	Biblical hatred for offending God
Fear of consequences/other people knowing	↔	Fear of sinning against a holy God
Vague resolutions - a resolve "to do better"	↔	Specific concrete actions clearly defined
Despair	↔	Hope

Judas was in total despair...He was trying to relieve his psychological pain... See it again...



Judas said, "I've betrayed innocent blood!" In Matthew 27:4, Judas says:

Matthew 27:4

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

And you see, Church Family, right there is the reason the Law of the Jews and the Sanhedrin allowed a day in between the sentence and the execution of someone. Why? Just in case there was more evidence brought forth or another witness came forward. Here's Judas saying, "He's innocent!" In other words, Judas was saying... "THIS IS WRONG!" Do you see, here is the CHIEF witness had come and said, "He's innocent!" The Sanhedrin should have retried the case! But instead, they said, "What is that to us! See to it yourself."

Amazing isn't it! The very people who should have been the ones that cared most about justice and fairness and that which is right, said, "We don't care Judas!" And this is the attitude that Jesus exposed throughout His ministry. It's why He said what He said in the Temple on Tuesday, 3 days earlier when Matthew recorded these words:

Matthew 23:1-4

¹ Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ² "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, ³ so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. ⁴ They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger."

They wouldn't lift a finger to help this man in turmoil. They didn't care! They were totally indifferent!

You know, I've thought a lot about Judas. Judas messed up again! He went to the wrong people! He went to the Scribes and Pharisees...but, he should have gone to Jesus. How close was he to Jesus? Were they within a few feet of each other as Jesus was brought out of the Chamber of Hewn Stones? He could have run up to Jesus and said, "Forgive me!" But, he didn't! No!

Judas was looking for relief! He got none! Judas was looking for peace for his tormented soul. He got none! He was looking for a way out of his despair. He found none! Oh...IF HE HAD ONLY GONE TO JESUS! Jesus said:

"Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest!" How many times had Judas heard Jesus say those words...but, he wouldn't come!!

No, Judas **didn't** want a Savior...he just wanted relief from his guilt and shame. He wanted to get rid of his pain and somehow he thought giving the money back would make it right. **Isn't that how sin works?**

What you think you want so badly and that will give you satisfaction ends up causing you gut-wrenching grief and regret. You think about sin...the sin that beacons you today... Where will it lead you? Oh sin makes promises it can't keep. Sin will take you further than you could ever imagine! Sin looks so good, so enticing...and you take it and then it stings you with a poison that was hidden beneath the surface of that pleasure...but, with it...lasting poison and you're left writhing in pain! See the image again...



Judas said: "Here, take it back!" It's too late! They refused! So...Judas...

Matthew 27:5

⁵And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself.

Oh that money...that money Judas prized so highly was like a cancer eating into his soul. **Did you notice he threw it into the Temple?**

I looked it up. There are two words used for "Temple" most often. Hieron and Naos. The term Hieron means any part of the Temple compound, but the term Naos means: the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. Do you know where Judas threw the money? Listen, he was determined those double-crossing, low-life's would have to pick up that money. And so he walks into the Temple

compound...right through the courtyard and into the Holy Place, where only the priests are allowed to go...



It's the room right outside the Holy of Holies, where the Ark of the Covenant was kept behind the Temple veil. He knew they would have to come pick up that money...the common people wouldn't get it. The priests would have to do something with it! This was one last **act of defiance and then he goes and hangs himself**. Acts 1:18 describes where Judas' body would ultimately break loose from the noose and hit the ground bursting open with his bowels gushing out. So tragic and gruesome!

Might I stop here for a few moments and talk to you about what Judas did by hanging himself. What do you call that? Suicide...the taking of your own life. Let me ask you something. Did his suicide relieve the guilt he felt? No. Death doesn't relieve misery or the pain or the suffering... In the case of Judas it made it permanent. Judas thought he could find relief in death...but, the moment his life ebbed out of his body, hanging from that rope, he slid into Hades and horrors beyond his imagination. Judas is still in his guilt at this very moment.

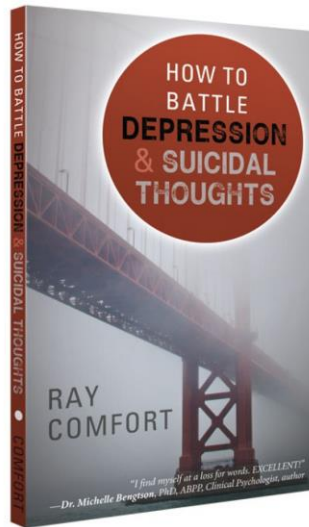
Listen, suicide is epidemic in our society. You can hardly go a day and not hear about someone in the community committing suicide or some movie star or musician or famous person. If you GOOGLE, "famous people who have committed suicide," your screen will explode with faces you know. So tragic...all the money...all the fame...all the big houses, cars, clothes...it wasn't enough. And Satan comes and brings despair and hopelessness and says, "Kill yourself!" After all, what does Satan want to do? Destroy! Jesus said as much!

John 10:10

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Satan wants people to feel they are alone and helpless He wants their lives to feel hopeless, guilt-ridden, having no purpose. He whispers into the mind of the weary soul: "There's no use. End it!"

Take a look at this book:



We have copies of it in the back. It's a book by Ray Comfort, "How to Battle Depression & Suicidal Thoughts." It's very good. In it, Comfort describes an experience where he talked someone down from the Golden Gate Bridge. See the picture...



The Golden Gate Bridge spans 220 feet above the San Francisco Bay. Dr. Lisa Firestone interviewed 29 people who attempted suicide from that bridge and she says, "All 29 people who survived a suicide attempt jumping off the bridge said they regretted their decision as soon as they jumped." Here's an example of one...Kevin Hines said this:

"Instant regret, powerful, overwhelming. As I fell, all I wanted to do was reach back to the rail, but it was gone. I thought, 'What have I just done? I don't want to die. God, please save me.' ...I recognized that I made the greatest mistake of my life." Kevin Hines

By the grace of God, Kevin survived. Dr. Richard Seiden in his book, "Where Are They Now?" chronicles the lives of 515 people who attempted to jump from the Golden Gate Bridge, but their attempt was thwarted. Only 6 went on to later take their lives. That means 99.9% of those who initially attempted suicide got past it. Seiden said, "They were having an acute temporary crises, but they passed through it and coming out on the other side, they got on with their lives."

Listen, understand this...God is the author of life. He is the giver and taker of life.

Psalm 139:16

Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

God has a plan and purpose for each life and we'll never know satisfaction apart from Him. I think of Robin Williams, Prince, Kate Spade...so sad. Where are they now? Their families are still picking up the pieces.

If you know of someone who is struggling...offer them Jesus. He is the way the, the truth and the life. Might I offer some words of comfort from the Scriptures...from the Psalms...the Psalms of David. David...the man after God's own heart who still blew it...an adulterer and murderer. He went through so much and yet He returned to the Lord and he offers such great encouragement.

Psalm 34:4

I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

Psalm 62:5-7

⁵For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. ⁶He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. ⁷On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

Psalm 147:3-5

³He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. ⁴He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names. ⁵Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

Did you hear that? **His understanding IS BEYOND MEASURE!** Jesus knows... He knows pain, hurt and suffering. He sweat blood in the Garden of Gethsemane.



He knows what it feels like to be betrayed by someone very close to you:



He knows what it feels like to be misunderstood and maligned...



and treated so wickedly. Jesus knows...and He cares...

Listen carefully, if you or someone you know is suffering today...realize: You're not alone. You are loved. Your pain and hurt can be helped. Your life has purpose. Why? Because God so loved you...that He sent Jesus to die for you and give you life! Jesus hurt...He did this for you...



He knows how you feel! Would you lean on Him today? That's who we look to! I love:

Isaiah 26:3-4

³You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. ⁴Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.

Oh if Judas would have just realized this...but, he was at the end of a rope and 30 pieces of silver was lying in the Holy Place. Well, what would those chief priests and elders do with that money?

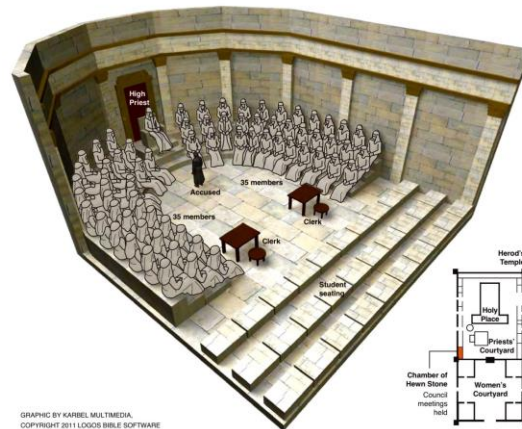
Matthew 27:6

⁶But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money."

All of a sudden, these men get real sanctimonious and righteous! They get real lawful and say: "Oh no! This blood money...we can't put this back in the Treasury!" Oh really, well it didn't stop them from taking it out of the Treasury to pay off Judas a few days earlier!! Now **they're too pious** to put it back! Are you kidding me? Do you see the twistedness of the Sanhedrin...and let me tell you something else, anyone reading Matthew's letter about 20 years after all of this happened, should have been thinking...every one of those guys in that Sanhedrin...

The Sanhedrin

The Jewish high court of justice consisted of 71 men and was led by the high priest. The council could decide almost any fate of its people—except the death penalty, which was decided by the Romans. The court was located within the Chamber of Hewn Stone inside Herod's Temple.



should have been impeached. They were unfit to lead! Let history continue to record their hypocrisy and wickedness. So, what did they do?

Matthew 27:7-10

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."

Here's the traditional site of this potter's field in Jerusalem today:



The Field of Blood! It's barren isn't it! A potter's field is where you pick up clay. Potters need clay and when they found a field that had clay...they would scrape it down until there was nothing left but bare rock. This is an appropriate place for this field in the Hinnom Valley, just south of Jerusalem. Appropriate in that it is totally barren...dead...just like the religion of the Sanhedrin and the life of Judas.

Yes, Judas would go to the Temple...the place of religion to seek help for his troubled soul and yet all that was there was dead religion. And Judas walked right past Jesus! What a contrast! Jesus and Judas...



What about you today? How is it with you? Are you really living? You will never know true LIVING...until you know Jesus. So, I beg you: Don't be like Judas... Judas let Jesus pass Him by! Please! Don't pass Jesus by today! He loves you! Call on Him!!
