

Matthew 27:1-10 **THE TRAGIC DEATH OF JUDAS**

Introduction:

After His arrest at night Jesus was brought before the high priest who had assembled members of the Sanhedrin Council. There was no effort to find out if He was innocent or guilty of some crime. The sole purpose of the hearing was to find something which they could use against Him. He was asked if He is the Son of God and He acknowledged that He is. They immediately accused of blasphemy and pronounced Him to be worthy of death. They thought Him worthy of death, but they could not sentence Him to death.

When daylight came, they had another hearing for the purpose of finding some way whereby they could bring about His death, V.1. . In this meeting they simply rubber stamped the verdict of the earlier meeting. They knew that they could not sentence Him to death. They would have to find a way to get the Roman governor to sentence Him to death. They did. They changed their charge of blasphemy to the charge of rebellion against the Roman government. With this new charge they went immediately to Pilate, V. 2. .

At this point Matthew stops writing about their efforts to put Jesus to death and turns his attention to the tragic death of Judas Iscariot.

I. The repentance of Judas.

- A. Judas saw that Jesus, was, indeed, condemned and would be put to death.
 - 1. Matthew says that he repented of his wicked deed of betraying Jesus into their wicked hands, V. 3. .
 - 2. He was deeply grieved that he had done such a wicked deed.
 - 3. He knew that Jesus was not guilty of the charges against Him, but he knew that he was guilty of the charges that his own conscience made against himself.
 - 4. He was sorry; he was deeply sorry.
- B. He even went back to the Jewish leaders and threw the 30 pieces of silver at their feet, v. 3b.
- C. He acknowledged that he had betrayed innocent blood, V. 4.
- D. But when the Jewish leaders heard Judas express his regrets for betraying Jesus, they said, "What is that to us?" V. 4b. (They were not in the least concerned that they were partly responsible for his grief.)
- E. In our day there are many individuals, who likewise stand guilty before God. (Some are gamblers, some are crooked business men, some have committed armed robbery, some operate liquor stores, some sell dope, some are prostitutes, some operate gambling houses, some are dope addicts, some have committed murder. (When it is pointed out to them how badly they have hurt other individuals and caused them grief, they say, or at least think, "What is that to us?)
- F. We must acknowledge that not all people are like Judas.
 - 1. Not all have committed vile and vicious crimes.
 - 2. But all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Rom. 3:23.

II. The great tragedy for Judas

- A. Judas was so deeply grieved at the greatness of his sin that he hanged himself, V. V. 5b.
 - 1. It was a tragedy that he died.

- .2. He died broken hearted and that added to the tragedy. .
 3. He acknowledged his guilt and that added to the tragedy.
 4. He died by committing suicide and that added greatly to the tragedy.
- B. But the greatest tragedy of all concerning Judas is that almost surely he died unsaved.
1. In verse 3 Matthew said that Judas repented and he did in the sense that he deeply regretted his wicked deed.
 2. I wish I could think that he repented toward God and asked God to forgive him, but somehow I just cannot do so.
 3. I doubt that he repented with the kind of repentance that brings the salvation of the soul.
 4. He did acknowledge that Jesus was innocent of the charges against Him, but I see no evidence that he believed in Jesus as his Savior.(I would be glad to find out in the hereafter that I am wrong and that he did get saved.)
 5. He had every opportunity to get saved, and, yet it appears that he did not.
 6. He had every opportunity to go to heaven, but it appears that he went to hell.
- C. There is something just as tragic today.
1. It is tragic that someone whom we know may go out of this life and go to the same place that Judas went to. .
 2. It is tragic when the gospel is preached to a lost sinner and that lost sinner takes the attitude , “What is that to me?”

Conclusion:

Maybe I ought to be just as concerned about the eternal destiny of Judas Iscariot as I am about someone living today, but that is not the case. I am concerned about you. Won't you turn to Jesus now and call upon Him to have mercy on your soul? Won't you trust Him now and be saved?