



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

His Greatest Enemies Prove Jesus is Innocent

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Matthew 27:17-10

“When the morning had come, 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 up to Pilate the governor. 3) Then when Judas who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, 4) saying, ‘I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.’ But they said, ‘What is that to us? See to that yourself!’ 5) And he threw the pieces of silver into the sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself. 6) And the chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, ‘It is not lawful to put them into the temple treasury, since it is the price of blood.’ 7) And they counseled together and with the money bought the Potter’s Field as a burial place for strangers. 8) For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. 9) Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, saying, ‘AND THEY TOOK THE THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER, THE PRICE OF THE ONE WHOSE PRICE HAD BEEN SET by the sons of Israel; 10) AND THEY GAVE THEM FOR THE POTTER’S FIELD, AS THE LORD DIRECTED ME.’” (NASB)

“STRANGELY AND PERVERSELY, THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND ELDERS HAD NO COMPUNCTION ABOUT TAKING MONEY OUT OF THE TEMPLE TREASURY TO PAY JUDAS FOR THE BETRAYAL, BUT NOW THEY HAD QUALMS ABOUT PUTTING IT BACK. IN DOING SO, THEY TESTIFIED BEFORE THE WORLD TO THEIR GUILT AND HYPOCRISY.”

JOHN MACARTHUR

Who is the only other person in the Bible who betrays his master and then goes out and commits suicide by hanging himself? How did the political leaders of Israel betray Jesus? Why does Judas throw the silver in the temple where only the priests were allowed to go? What did Jeremiah do and say that is specifically fulfilled in our passage and how does it still apply to America today?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- > JANUARY 19: MATTHEW 27:11-14 **JESUS WITNESSES TO THE KING!**
- > JANUARY 26: MATTHEW 27:15-22 **WHAT SHALL I DO WITH JESUS?**

The first light of dawn was beginning to glow in the eastern sky on Thursday, April 6, 30 AD. The previous night Jesus had transformed the Passover, celebrating the Lamb of God which was to come and take away the sin of the world, into the Lord’s Supper, celebrating His death till He comes. After humbly washing their feet, He warned Judas and Peter of their coming treachery. One denied that he would ever do such a thing and received a prophecy of the cock, while the other hurried into the dark night possessed by Satan himself! After viewing the power of prayer in the fig tree that morning and had been personally commanded regarding the necessity of prayer to overcome temptation, the disciples still slept as Jesus sweat great “*drops of blood*” in His garden prayer. The drama of Judas’ kiss and Peter’s sword revealed their opposite attitudes as the leaders arrested the King. Yet as Peter watched his leaders break every law applicable in the unjust trial of Jesus Christ, he fearfully denied three times that he even knew his Master. When the reminding cock crowed, Peter repented and “*wept bitterly*.”

“THE KING EXPERIENCED ANOTHER IN A SERIES OF BETRAYALS—THIS TIME BY THE SO-CALLED SPIRITUAL LEADERS OF HIS OWN PEOPLE. MATTHEW MADE NO MENTION . . . OF THE PHARISEES AND SADDUCCEES. THIS WAS CLEARLY A BIPARTISAN EFFORT.”

STUART K. WEBER

I. HIS LEADERS BETRAY HIM MT. 27:1-2

In order to profess some sense of legality, the Sanhedrin (Congress of Israel) convened again with Jesus before

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30AM –PRAYER MEETING – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 7:00AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 12:00NOON –BIBLE STUDY – WYTESTONE PLAZA AT 8TH & MAIN 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

Virginia

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them in their public chamber and they repeat quickly the unlawful proceedings of the previous evening before the people woke up (Luke 22:66-71). These representatives “of the people” ignore the law requiring two witness (Deut. 17:6), and again require Jesus to confirm that He is the “Son of God.” Then they all claim to be witnesses saying, “What further need do we have of testimony? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth” (Lk. 22:71). After voting on the verdict of death for “blasphemy,” they knew Pilate would not be willing to hear such, so they chose the new charges of “perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King” (Lk. 23:2). After binding Him again, they all “delivered Him up to Pilate the governor” (Mt. 27:2). The verb “delivered up” is exactly the same verb used in the next verse of Judas who “had betrayed” Him. The Jewish leaders betrayed their Messiah by asking their Gentile ruler, Pilate, to kill Him!

“NO ONE KNEW BETTER THAN PILATE THE HYPOCRISY OF THE SANHEDRIN IN PROFESSING TO TAKE CAESAR’S PART AGAINST CHRIST.” BURTON COFFMAN

II. HIS BETRAYER HONORS HIM MT. 27:3-5

The Sanhedrin met in the Hall of Hewn Stones on the North side of the Temple. Evidently, while finishing their session, suddenly Judas, “saw that He had been condemned, felt remorse” and wanted to return the blood money for which he had betrayed Jesus. Overcome with guilt for the greatest sin ever committed, resulting in consequences far greater than he had imagined, Judas now abhorred the dreadful money which he had so carefully schemed to acquire. Offering the money back to them, he cried out in confession to these chief priests and elders, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood!” If there was ever one person who had spent the most time with Christ and would have been motivated to provide an accusation

against Him to justify his evil deed, it was Judas! But the last thing they want to hear at this point is a most reliable witness testifying that Jesus was innocent! So, they coldly refused the money with the retort, “What is that to us? See to that yourself!” Judas then conceives of a way to heap the greatest shame on them and “threw the pieces of silver into the Temple and departed; and he went away and hanged himself.” Judas was willing to do wrong in habitual theft until his thirst for money consumed and destroyed him!

“WHAT PROFIT IS IT TO A MAN IF HE GAINS THE WHOLE WORLD AND LOOSES HIS OWN SOUL? OR WHAT WILL A MAN GIVE IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS SOUL?.”
MATTHEW 16:26

III. ALL PROVE HE IS INNOCENT MT. 27:6-10

Now the wicked priests were stuck with the blood money they needed to spend very quickly. Adding to their shame was that they bought “*the Potter’s Field*” where Judas must have hung himself (Acts 1:18-19). About 500 years earlier, Jeremiah had been told to take “*the elders and the priests, and go out to the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, which is by entry of the Potsherd Gate,*” to warn of the future “*catastrophe*” because “*they have filled this place with the blood of the innocents . . . to burn their sons with fire*” therefore, “*this place shall no more be called Tophet or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter*” (Jer. 19:1-6). In seeking both to shame Judas and be outwardly fastidious concerning the law, the priests said of Judas’ silver, “*It is not lawful to put them into the temple treasury, since it is the price of blood.*” Thus they all prove that they know Jesus is innocent. And they all fulfill the prophecy of Jeremiah and Zachariah 11:12-13 when “*THEY TOOK . . . THE PRICE OF THE ONE WHOSE PRICE HAD BEEN SET . . . AND GAVE THEM FOR THE POTTER’S FIELD,*” all proving His innocence by calling it “*the Field of Blood.*” Israel began with the murder of their innocent babies and then to the murder of their God and Messiah!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Do you deal with your sin in genuine repentance like Peter, or sad remorse like Judas?
- 2) Have you acknowledged the innocence of Christ and received His sacrifice for your sin upon the cross?
- 3) Are you allowing sins in your life to go unheeded which may later grow to consume and destroy you?