

## **Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ**

### **Closing the Loop on Judas Iscariot**

Last time...Peter, gained access into Caiaphas' palace by John, denies knowing Jesus

John: frightened, fled but then followed...

and was a faithful witness of being a disciple of Jesus Christ,  
standing **with Jesus**

Peter: also frightened, fled, and then followed part way...

but was not a faithful witness of being a disciple of Jesus Christ,  
standing **with them**, Jesus' enemies

Peter was a spectator vs a witness

Spectators do not follow Jesus to the end, witnesses do

John was moved by...faith, and he stood with Jesus

Peter was moved by...fear of man, his faith was corrupted, and he stumbled

Peter repented, confessed, was restored, and was used in mighty ways by the Lord

This time...closing the loop on Judas Iscariot, the betrayer

While Peter's denial was rooted in the fear of man,

Judas' betrayal was rooted in covetousness, which is idolatry (Col 3:5)

We will be in Matt 27

v1-2 When the morning was come:

Jesus was arrested at night and "tried" before Annas at night.

The "trial" before Caiaphas took place at sunrise/dawn...6am

In 3 hours, Jesus will be crucified (Mark 15:25)

In 6 hours (noon) the day is going to turn dark (Matt 27:45)

In 9 hours, Jesus is going to lay down His life on the Cross

By His own words...

not by the testimony of 2 or 3 witnesses buy by illegal self-incrimination...  
they have what they want to justify their murderous motive

At the conclusion of the "trial" before Caiaphas, the chief priests and elders  
once again take counsel to condemn Jesus to death...

a wicked deliberation to kill Him

They had previously taken counsel (wicked deliberations) in

1. Mark 3:6 healed man with the withered hand in the synagogue on the sabbath (early 2<sup>nd</sup> Year)
2. John 7:1 before Feast of Tabernacles (late 2<sup>nd</sup> Year)
3. John 11:53 after He raised Lazarus from dead (Final 6 Months)
4. Matt 22:15 after teaching parables fingering the Pharisees as bad guys (Final Week)
5. Matt 26:4 before Passover (2 days ago)

## Fulfilling

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| Ps 31:13 | For I have heard the slander of many: fear <i>was</i> on every side: while they took counsel together against me, they devised to take away my life. |
| Ps 71:10 | For mine enemies speak against me; and they that lay wait for my soul take counsel together  |

Having reached their long held, foregone conclusion, the chief priests and elders  
bind Jesus...

He is not a flight risk,

He came to do the Father's will,

He sanctified Himself in the Garden of Gethsemane to do His will...

and marched Him over to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of the province of Judea

## Why?

The Jews' sentence of death is for the religious crime of blasphemy,  
a capital crime according to Jewish Law

Rome does not care about such matters, leaving religious matters in the hands of the conquered people

But, Rome held the power of capital punishment throughout their Empire,  
no conquered peoples had that power

## Fulfilling

- Gen 49:10    The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him *shall* the gathering of the people *be*.

Inspired about 1700 years previously

In Jesus' mind when He said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me." (John 12:32)

- Mark 10:33 Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles  
before His Triumphal Entry one week prior

This means, if the Jews want Jesus dead, He must be found guilty by Rome  
of committing a Roman capital offense  
ala insurrection: not paying taxes, a king challenging the Caesars  
Hence, the Jews march Jesus off to Pilate for a 3<sup>rd</sup> “trial”

Now, a parallel event recorded only in Matthew

v3-4a Judas...repented himself...I have sinned...innocent blood:  
The betrayer, Judas Iscariot, one of the 12, sees that his plan has backfired  
When he saw that Jesus was condemned to death...hardly a surprise, right?...  
he “repented himself”/regretted his actions

He goes to the chief priests and elders, his accomplices...  
assuredly a most unwelcome sight to them...  
and wants a refund, he wants the transaction reversed

He “confesses”

1. he has sinned/erred
2. he has betrayed an innocent man

Thoughts about what Judas said

1. he has erred  
his plan has backfired, just as do all the other plans of Satan  
1 Cor 2:1-8  
Ps 33:10-11 The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to  
nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none  
effect. The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever,  
the thoughts of his heart to all generations.  
Prov 21:30 *There is* no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel  
against the LORD.
2. he has betrayed an innocent man  
Jesus’ friend-turned-enemy proclaims His innocence...  
as will, in the next 9 hours, Pilate, Pilate’s wife, and the  
thief on the cross

Q: Did Judas Iscariot confess his sin and repent, required of man to be saved?  
Is Judas saved?

Hold those questions

v4b-5 What is that to us...cast down...hanged himself:

The chief priests and elders are threatened by and hate Jesus Christ.  
They have repeatedly taken counsel to kill Him during His ministry  
They had conspired and searched for a way to kill Him for quite some time...  
and then Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples, shows up as a  
willing accomplice

They formulate and execute a cunning plan with Judas' help  
With "clever" interrogation...knowing how Jesus would ultimately respond...  
they have in their minds and with their ears heard Jesus commit  
blasphemy

"Are you the Christ, the Son of God?"

"I am." (as He said to them many times before)

They got what they wanted!

Note: they got the Truth, which they think is a lie

Is 5:20-21

Now, this?

That weasel Judas, a willing pawn of theirs, says it was all a mistake?!

"What is this (Judas' regret and confession) to us?"

You got what you wanted and we got what we wanted.

Whatever else you got (a guilty conscience, perhaps) is not our problem.

"See thou to that."

You are on your own, we are done with you.

So Judas flings the 30 pieces of silver into the Temple, runs out and  
hangs himself in

- the potter's field (v7)
- the field of blood (v8)
- the Valley of Hinnom

The message of Satan to man: Kill yourself

v6 It is not lawful:

Mind-blowing hypocrisy and blindness!

It is not lawful

What about all their deliberations to kill Jesus has been lawful?

Since when has the Law ever guided their hearts?

to put blood money

The 30 pieces of silver paid to Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus  
is "dirty" money

Judas' money was their dirty money, they AND he made it dirty  
into the Treasury

the offering box as an offering to God (btw All-seeing and All-knowing)

By the laws of the Jews, Jesus' trial was in every regard illegal

1. Jesus was arrested illegally, according to Jewish law
  - Not formally charged with an offense when arrested, just taken
  - By criminals
    - Judas accepted a bribe
    - The Jews offered the bribe
2. Examined by Annas in a secret night proceeding
  - Talmud: An accused man cannot be subjected to private or secret examination
3. The indictment against Jesus was false
  - The Sanhedrin, the court, could not originate charges...they did
  - No witness came forth to substantiate charges...  
false witnesses were sought but their testimonies did not agree
4. Trial was during the night, before sunrise
  - Talmud: The Sanhedrin is forbidden from convening between the time of the evening and morning sacrifices...no session of the court could take place before the offering of the morning sacrifice.
  - Mishna (Jewish oral law written down): Let a capital offense be tried during the day, but suspend at night. (this was a serious issue, to be considered only when judges were in the best mental state)
5. The Sanhedrin convened to try a capital offense on a day before an annual Sabbath
  - Mishna: They shall not judge on the eve of a Sabbath, nor on any festival
6. The trial concluded in one day
  - Mishna: A criminal case resulting in the acquittal of the accused may terminate the same day on which the trial began. But if a sentence of death is to be pronounced, it cannot be concluded before the following day. (to allow time for witnesses for the defense to come forth; the Sanhedrin wanted no such witnesses to come forth)
  - A pronouncement of "Not guilty" could be handed down on the same day of a trial, but a sentence of "Guilty" could only be pronounced on the day following the trial

7. Jesus was indicted on one charge...which was not corroborated with supporting evidence...but condemned on a different charge...and that condemnation based on His own testimony
  - contrary to a fundamental principle that no one can bring accusation against himself
  - a contorted charge...Lev 24 shows blasphemy to be the act of cursing God, which Jesus obviously did not do
8. The entire Sanhedrin was not present, according to Josephus
  - Luke 23:50-51
9. The place was illegal
  - Luke 22:54
  - Talmud: After leaving the hall/court, no sentence of death can be passed upon anyone soever. A sentence of death can be pronounced only so long as the Sanhedrin holds its sessions in the appointed place.
10. Most of the Sanhedrin was legally disqualified to try Jesus
  - According to Josephus, 12 former high priests served on this Sanhedrin
  - High priest was selected every year per Roman law vs lifetime office per Law of Moses
11. The judge rendered no judgment on the charge against Him
  - The High Priest was derelict of his duties
  - The formal sentence of “Guilty of death” was to be pronounced by the High Priest...Caiaphas never did
12. The guilty, the condemned to death
  - Was not to be scourged beforehand
  - No prolonged death (torture and torment) was to be inflicted

And now the Jews are “stumbled” by this illegality of (their) blood money being put into God’s treasury?

Truly Matt 23:23-33

v7-10 potter's field...field of blood...Jeremy:

So the wicked counsellors do so again and decide to buy the potter's field,  
a source of clay, for the purpose of burying strangers/foreigners  
That field was henceforth called The Field of Blood

Fulfilling prophetic Scripture first recorded by Jeremiah in 605 BC before  
judgment/captivity into Babylon

**Jer 18:1-6**

with Is 64:8

the potter's field was west of where the Kidron and  
Hinnom Valleys met/merged

[ pic ]

**Jer 19:1-7a**

The Lord thru Jeremiah pronounces judgment against  
Judah and Jerusalem (given over to covetousness)  
in Valley of Hinnom aka Tophet aka Gehenna

**Jer 19:10-12**

judgment pronounced in the potter's field where the soil  
was cold, soft clay, making for slippery foot steps

Prophetically described in **Zech 11:10-13**, in 487 BC after the return of the  
remnant from captivity

30 pieces of silver, "my price", and "the price of him valued", speaks of their  
Messiah, whom they valued yet they "slipped" when He arrived as  
prophesied as the Servant of God

Ex 21:32

If the ox shall push a manservant or a maidservant; he shall  
give unto their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox  
shall be stoned

Back to **v3-4a**

Did Judas Iscariot confess and repent of his sin?

Was Judas saved?

Judas was a thief, a betrayer, a son of perdition (per Jesus Himself in John 17:12)

Prov 14:12 describes him

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways  
of death

He is a fulfillment of a shadow, Ahithophel to King David

2 Sam 17:23 And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he  
saddled *his* ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his  
city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died

Ps 55:12-15 in **Ps 55:1-16**

While at the same time a shadow of a future fulfillment of another son of perdition,  
the Antichrist, the man of sin (2 Thes 2:3)

What does Scripture say about his eternal disposition – condemned or justified by faith?

Acts 1:15-20

Ps 69:16-28

Ps 109:1-20

2 Cor 7:8-11

Repentance is NOT regret (v3)

Repentance is

- thinking differently
- a reversal, a reformation

Judas had the sorrow of the world

Did Judas confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God?

He confessed Jesus' innocence but not His Deity

### **Application**

Lesson: Salvation is not for everyone, but it is for anyone (whosoever will believe)

Learn from Judas!

Unbelief ends in death, the 2<sup>nd</sup> death

By faith, receive God's gift of repentance

2 Tim 2:19-25

By faith, received the engrafted Word that is able to save your soul

James 1:21

If you have received by faith God's gift of repentance, rejoice in your salvation

Ps 13:5-6 I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation. I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.

Ps 40:16 Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified.

Is 25:7-9 And he (LORD) will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the vail that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken *it*. And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this *is* our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this *is* the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation



If you have received by faith God's gift of repentance, hold fast to the engrafted word

2 Tim 1:13     Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

Heb 4:14       Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession

Rev 3:11       **Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown**

If you are saved from the power of death by the grace of God, never stop giving thanks!

A visiting Preacher was attending a men's breakfast in Ohio Farm Country. He asked one of the impressive older farmers in attendance to say grace that morning.

After all were seated, the older farmer began-----

"Lord, I hate buttermilk."

The Preacher opened one eye and wondered to himself where this was going.

Then the farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard."

Now the Preacher was quite worried. However without missing a beat, the farmer prayed on, "And Lord, you know I don't care much for raw white flour."

Just as the Preacher was ready to stand and stop everything, the farmer continued, "But Lord, when you mix 'em all together and bake 'em up, I do love fresh biscuits. So Lord, when things come up we don't like, when life gets hard, when we just don't understand what you are sayin' to us, we just need to relax and wait 'till You are done mixin', and probably it will be somethin' even better than biscuits. Amen!"

Judas did not like buttermilk or lard or white flour...and he didn't trust the Lord to make biscuits

Judas did not like God's plan of redemption

He had no faith in the Lord

He had another plan

Believe God

Trust Him to do something much better than biscuits!