

Week of June 23 - The Remorse

Small Group Lesson 8

Connect

It has been said that despair is the strongest tool in the devil's toolbox. Do you agree? How does this saying apply to Judas in today's lesson?

Verses - Matthew 27:1-10 (CSB)

1 When daybreak came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put him to death. **2** After tying him up, they led him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

3 Then Judas, his betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, was full of remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders. **4** "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood," he said.

"What's that to us?" they said. "See to it yourself!" **5** So he threw the silver into the temple and departed. Then he went and hanged himself.

6 The chief priests took the silver and said, "It's not permitted to put it into the temple treasury, since it is blood money." **7** They conferred together and bought the potter's field with it as a burial place for foreigners. **8** Therefore that field has been called "Field of Blood" to this day. **9** Then what was spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him whose price was set by the Israelites, **10** and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me.

Study

1. **TEXT: Quickly answer these questions referred to in today's verses:**
   a. In v.1, why did the chief priests and elders want Jesus dead? (Mt 26:65)
   b. In v.2, why did they turn him over to the governor?
   c. Did ***Judas*** think Jesus was guilty of any crime? (v.4)
   d. Why did he turn him over to the authorities anyways?
   e. Did he understand (at first) that they were plotting to ***kill*** Jesus?
   f. Why did Judas later give back the money and kill ***himself***? (vv.3-5)
   g. Why did the chief priests refuse to keep the money? (v.6)

2. **APPLY:** Peter (Mt. 26:69-75) and Judas (Mt. 27:3-10) both betrayed Jesus and experienced *remorse*.
   a. Were the experiences of the two men different in some way? How?
   b. What can we learn from their experiences and apply in our own lives?

3. **DISCUSS:** Betrayal of Jesus by Judas is understood by Matthew (vv.8-10) and Luke (in Acts 1:16-20) as fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. **Why is this important?**

Prayer

※ Please pray for one another as the Spirit moves you and in addition . . .

※ Ask the Holy Spirit to be always beside us, reminding us never to despair, no matter how great our sin, no matter how deep our remorse, because we are the Children of God and Jesus is our Savior. All we need is found in Him!

※ Thank Jesus for all that he has endured and accomplished on our behalf. Let us not dishonor Him by thinking our problems are too great for Him to handle or turning away from Him when our need is greatest.

※ Thank our Heavenly Father for every good thing: past, present, and future. May He be praised forever.