

**POINT #1 - BEING SORRY BUT NOT REPENTING**

Judas seeing he was condemned was remorseful. The word for remorse is the Greek word meaning "to regret." Judas felt the sting of his own guilt. He went to the men who paid him to betray Jesus. He expressed sorrow to them, but not God. This is common, people often feel guilty or condemned of something, but fail to repent to God which changes the direction of their lives. 2 Corinthians 7:10 "For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death."

- Peter's denial resulted in repentance and sorrow towards God.
- Judas was sorrowful for betraying an innocent man, and by returning the money he assumed this would relive his guilt.

We see in vs. 5 a very troubling end. He threw down the pieces (in disgust and anger) and went and hanged himself. In Acts 1:18 it describes the death of Judas. It's fairly descriptive. It's really a tragic end. Many have had their lives end with repenting to man not God.

**POINT #2 - WICKED MEN FULFILLING PROPHECY**

Zechariah 11:13 "Then the Lord said to me, 'Throw it to the potter, that magnificent price at which I was valued by them.' So I took the thirty shekels of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the Lord." The prophet received further instruction in acting out the drama that pictures Christ being rejected, namely by throwing 30 pieces into the temple. This was fulfilled by Judas Iscariot, laden with guilt, went back and threw blood money on the temple floor. The priests gathered the money and used it to buy a field from a potter. **Note:** in the providence of God, He uses wicked men to accomplish His will.

**POINT #3 - THE VILE HATRED OF CHRIST**

It did not matter the evidence of truth, their vile hatred for Christ overshadowed their reason.

- Even Pilate tried to reason with the crowd vs. 23 "And he said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they kept shouting all the more, saying, "Crucify Him!"
- The people's vile hatred for Christ was evidenced by their willingness to be guilty of killing Him, vs. 25 "And all the people said, His blood shall be on us and on our children!" They were willing to send this judgment upon their children.

It was God's plan for Jesus to die. He used men's evil and wicked heart to accomplish His will. We see this in Isaiah 53:10.

**POINT #4 - THE DEATH OF CHRIST AND THE REALIZATION OF THE TRUTH**

Vs. 48-50 some were waiting on proof of who Jesus was. They had the Old Testament that told of the Messiah. They wanted to see if Elijah would come? Would they have believed if that happened?

**POINT #5 - THE SIGNS OF JESUS' DEATH**

- The veil was torn, the earth quakes and the rocks split. The splitting of the veil signified the way to God's presence was for all. The fact it tore from top to bottom shows no man could have split the veil, God did. Exodus 26:33 "You shall hang up the veil under the clasps, and shall bring in the ark of the testimony there within the veil; and the veil shall serve for you as a partition between the holy place and the holy of holies." Hebrews 9:3 "Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies." Hebrews 10:19-22 "Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."
- The graves were opened. This is not an analogy. This alone is recorded by Matthew (vs. 53). Evidently, these were given glorified bodies; they appeared to "many" enough to establish the reality of this miracle, and the no doubt they ascended to glory. This is a foretaste of the return of Christ, 1 Thessalonians 4:16 "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first."

#### POINT #5 - TRUTH REALIZED

In vs. 54 the centurion and those with him "feared greatly" and what is perceived as a confession "truly this was the Son of God!" In Mark 15:39 "When the centurion, who was standing right in front of Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God!" The centurion had seen many crucified victims before, but none like this. The strength He possessed at death, as evidenced by His loud cry (Mark 15:37) was unheard of for a victim of crucifixion. This coupled with the earthquake that coincided with Christ's death, convinced the centurion that Jesus was the Son of God.

- Notice the difference in the response of the centurion and Judas.
  - Judas repented to man
  - Judas felt guilt but didn't truly repent
  - The centurion realized the truth as he saw Christ being crucified
  - The centurion confessed Jesus is the Son of God

**CONCLUSION:** Are you trying to relieve guilt yourself by doing works or attempting to be good enough for God to accept you? Or will you confess today that He is truly the Son of God!