

Remnant Life Church  
March 27, 2016  
Easter Sunday

**What Judas Missed**  
**Matthew 27:1-10**

- Today we celebrate the greatest day in the life of the church
- Easter, (or Resurrection Sunday as I prefer to call it) is a day that brings hope, life, and an eternal future for the Christian
- It is what separates Christianity from every other religion in the world
- I want to look this morning, however, at a man who is rarely spoke of after Good Friday
- Madam Tussaud's Wax Museum, London – since 1970 visitors asked to name the most hated people
  - Hitler; Osama bin Laden; Idi Amin; Joseph Mengela; Joseph Stalin
  - Today names like Justin Beiber, Kenye West, any of the Kardashians (take your pick) are being listed
- But the name Judas Iscariot has never made the list – surprising
- The man who betrayed the King of Kings, Prince of Peace, Lord or Lords, Jesus Christ!
- His name is synonymous with betrayal
- Webster: Judas - *someone who betrays someone else; traitor*
- Biblical baby names – Adam, Joshua, Seth, Asher, Aaron...but never Judas!
- Judas, the younger brother of Jesus, used the shortened version Jude when he authored his 25 verse letter that would become the second to last book included in the NT
  - We don't read from 1 and 2 Pete, or 1, 2 and 3 Jack – but Judas did not want to be confused with THAT Judas
- Who was Judas Iscariot?
  - Not that much is told of who he was
  - Father's name Simon
  - Name is probably a Hebrew combination of Ish and Kariot meaning Man of Kariot
  - He was the treasurer of the disciples ([John 12:6](#))
  - During that time he stole from the treasury ([John 12:6](#))
  - But why would he turn in his mentor, his teacher, and his closest friend?
- Six possible reasons:
  1. He was the only non-Galilean of the group and he grew bitter of being “the outsider”
  2. Realized what was about to go down and drew on his sense of self-preservation
  3. He was a very greedy man; today's value 30 pcs of silver = 12 – 15K
  4. He came to hate Jesus because he could not hide his true nature from Him; his outward appearance to the others (elected treasurer) was not who he truly was (thief)
  5. The Greek form of the name Iscariot is “Dagger Bearer”; a band of violent nationalists who would do anything to free Palestine from Roman Rule; bitter that Jesus was not making that happen

6. Did not intend for Jesus to die only to force his hand and use His power to free himself and Israel
- Judas was a friend, a confidant, a disciple, the treasurer and a traitor
  - The question we ask today, Resurrection Sunday 2016, when Judas hung himself what did he miss?
  - We read this morning in Matthew that Judas hung himself in remorse
  - Judas was dead before Jesus was sentenced, before the trials were started and finished, before Barabbas was released, before they whipped Jesus and forced the crown of thorns over his head, before they nailed Him to the cross – Judas was dead
  - **The most important thing Judas missed was the forgiveness given by Jesus**
  - When Jesus looked out over the crowd that was in front of Him He said, *“Father forgive them, they don’t know what they are doing.”* (Luke 23:34)
    - There are those who believe that Judas could never be forgiven for what he did
    - **2 Peter 3:9** - *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*
    - Is Judas in heaven or hell?
    - I don’t know – only God knows the heart and what Judas did before he died
    - But he was so close to knowing for sure and continuing to live in that forgiveness
    - **Matt 27:4** - *“I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.”*
    - Judas certainly felt remorse for what he had done but we don’t know if he asked forgiveness
    - How close are you to a right relationship with God but you are thinking “close enough”?
  - Three days after Jesus died the Bible tells us that He rose again – but Judas was still dead
    - **John 20:19** tells us that that same evening Jesus appeared to the disciples and said “Peace be with you
  - **The second thing that Judas missed was peace**
    - Jesus told His disciples in **John 14:27** - *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*
    - Judas was there for that! He heard those words but was obviously not at peace!
    - What was going through his mind when he heard those words?
    - Was he thinking that the money he would receive bring him peace?
    - The world can never bring us peace
    - Otherwise suicide would not be the leading cause of death in this country among 15-34 year olds
    - You can look very happy, content, and at peace on the outside but what is the truth?
    - Felix Powell was a composer and co-wrote the song, “Pack up your troubles in your old kitbag and smile, smile, smile.”
    - That song was at one time referred to as the most optimistic song ever written

- Felix Powell took his own life in 1942 at the age of 63
- Nothing of this world can bring true, lasting peace
- Only a personal relationship with the risen Savior can do that
  
- Judas was so caught up in his own problems, the only way out being suicide, that he missed out on the one thing he probably wanted the most
  - Forty days after Jesus died he told the disciples – “... *you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*” (Acts 1:8)
  - Within 10 days of that promise a power was unleashed on the disciples that changed the world
  
- **The third thing Judas missed out on was power – the power of God**
  - The original word used in the Scriptures was *dunamos*
  - Dynamite, dynamic, and dynamo
  - It is the power that brought Lazarus back to life
  - That parted the Red Sea and the Jordan river
  - That healed the leper, the blind, the lame, the demon possessed
  - It is the same power that brought Jesus out of the grave
  - And it is the same power that is available to every one of us today!
  
- The church today does not avail itself of that power
  - We no longer have the same influence we once did
  - As a matter of fact society and culture is telling us what is right and wrong
  - Is that because the power of the Holy Spirit has diminished?
  - Or is it because we, the children of God, the church do not lay claim to and exercise that power?
  
- Judas missed out on a great deal with his decision to take his own life
  - Forgiveness, peace, power
  - All of that is available to you right now, today!
  
- Judas had a choice to make and so do each of us here this morning
  - Will you choose to ask God for all that He has for you?
  - Will you choose to live as His child empowered to overcome the evil and temptations of the world?
  - Will you surrender all of your life to Him this morning?
  
- The choice is yours!