

Judas Changed His Mind

By Kent Heaton

It was clear that what had been set in motion was not going to change. The verdict of condemnation was delivered and Judas realized that nothing was going to change the events of that day. His motives for betrayal amounted only to thirty pieces of silver; the price of a slave. Seeing that Jesus was condemned the apostle brings back the blood money to the chief priests and elders and acknowledges he sinned “by betraying innocent blood” (Matthew 27:4). His plea for intervention was unheard and throwing the money on the floor of the temple Iscariot went and hanged himself.

The text says that Judas was “remorseful” or “repented himself.” He realized too late that his betrayal brought his friend and rabbi to the blood thirsty hearts of the enemies of the Christ. In redemptive irony he brings the price of a slave to the temple of the Lord and throws it at the feet of the hypocritical leaders of God’s people who had long ago concerned itself more with paying “tithes of mint and anise and cumin, and ... neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith” (Matthew 23:23).

Judas changed his mind but it was too late. There was nothing he could do. The money meant nothing to him now and the consequence of a ‘moment’s reckless folly’ brought the Christ, the Son of God to the courts of men to die on a cross. He had changed his mind but God had not changed His mind. Judas was a good man. He served in the inner circle of the Lord preaching, healing, performing miracles and hearing the teachings of Jesus first hand. His deep remorse shows how much he loved the Lord and because of allowing Satan to storm the bastion of his heart and opening the door he went and hung himself in despair. His mind was changed but his actions could not be taken back.

It is impossible to know what would have happened if Judas had not hung himself. Clearly the end result was suicide and a name held through history as the one who betrayed the Lord. Peter betrayed the Lord but recovered to preach with the eleven on the Day of Pentecost the redemption of man through the blood of Christ. But in the story of Judas changing his mind could not turn back the hands of time.

In contrast, the parable of the two sons in Matthew 21:28-32 shows what man can do when given the opportunity. "A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went" (Matthew 21:28-29). The second son told his father he would go but then decided not to go. The application Jesus makes is to show how the first son did the right thing by changing his mind from rebellion to obedience. Sometimes a change of mind brings a blessing. In the case of Judas his mind changed but the circumstance did not change.

Every decision we make has consequence. If we do nothing there is consequence. The challenge is to make certain the choices we make will not create events that are unchangeable. The sacrifice of Jesus is given to all men to obey the will of the Father but the decision to reject that invitation can have eternal consequences that will never be changed. Be like the son of Matthew 21 and change your mind to do the will of what God expects of you. Make that choice now before it is too late.

Impossible to Restore

“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame” (Heb. 6:4-6).

There is an old, familiar nursery rhyme which says, "Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. All the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't put Humpty Dumpty together again." Actually, this nursery rhyme was first presented in the form of a riddle. It asked, "What, when broken, can never be repaired, not even by all the strongest and wisest individuals?" The answer is: "An egg." Regardless of how hard men try, a broken egg can never be put back together again.

Likewise, under the conditions described in Hebrews 6:4-6, it is impossible to bring those individuals to repentance for they are in no condition to repent. When, and only when, they stop crucifying Christ, putting Him to an open shame, etc., they can be brought back.

Esau Repented Too Late

By John Newton

Poor Esau repented too late
After he his birth-right despised;
And sold, for a morsel of meat,
What could not be too highly prized.

How great was his anguish when told,
The blessing he sought to obtain,
Was gone with the birth-right he sold,
And none could recall it again!

He stands as a warning to all,
Wherever the Gospel shall come;
O hasten and yield to the call,
While yet for repentance there's room!

Your season will quickly be past,
Hear and obey it today;
Lest when you seek mercy at last,
The Savior should frown you away.

What is it the world can propose?
A morsel of meat at the best!
For this are you willing to lose
A share in the joys of the Blest?

The world's pleasures will speedily end,
Its favor and praise are but a breath;
And what can the world's profits befriend
A soul in the moment of death?

If Jesus for these you despise,
And sin to the Savior prefer;
In vain are your entreaties and cries,
When summoned to stand at His bar.

How will you His presence abide?
What anguish will torture your heart?
As saints be enthroned by His side,

Though you be compelled to depart.

Too often, dear Savior, have I
Preferred some poor trifling thing to Thee;
And how is it that Thou dost not deny
The blessing and birth-right to me?

No better than Esau I am,
Though pardon and Heaven be mine;
To me belongs nothing but shame,
All the praise and the glory be Thine!

A Moments Wisdom

- You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.
- There are only two times in life: now and too late.
- Nostalgia: When you find the present tense and past perfect.
- For of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: It might have been!
- Some choices we live not only once but a thousand times over, remembering them for the rest of our lives.
- Everything comes too late for those who only wait.
- When you realize you have made a mistake, make amends immediately. It's easier to eat crow while it's still warm.
- An apology is a good way to have the last word.
- Never ruin an apology with an excuse.