

# Holy Week - Tuesday

## Matthew 27:1-10

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, 'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.' But they said, 'What is that to us? See to it yourself.' Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, 'It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.' After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, 'And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me.'

**New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)**



## **Reflection**

As I mentioned yesterday, the Temple Chief Priest waited until the morning to take Jesus to Pilate. So, Jesus had been kept in the courtyard of the Temple all night from the time they arrested him in the garden.

I can well imagine that Jesus was likely to have become rather weary by this time. It was also that Jesus saw and possibly heard Peter's denial just as Jesus had predicted. He likely saw Peter's sorrow as he realised what had just happened.

So it is with Judas – the betrayer – we hear he is called. Realising that Jesus had suddenly become condemned to death, he repented. Taking back the thirty pieces of silver he confessed, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." Judas has over many years been vilified for his actions and yet Matthew makes it very clear to us that he repented – even if too late – of his actions.

I wonder if you have ever felt that someone you have been close to, a friend or family member, perhaps a work colleague doesn't do as you think they should be. In your mind they are wrong and so you do what you feel is the right thing and report it to those in authority or talk to others about it and spread false rumours that may not be justified.

Suddenly, something happens, and you realise that you were wrong, and you go to those in authority or those to whom you spoke and recant or repent of your words. 'Too late,' you're told. 'What has that to do with us.' The falsehood is out there. It cannot be returned to the box it came from.

Judas, I feel in this instance (he was a thief who stole from the common purse remember), became part of a situation that went out of control. Perhaps his intention was to tip Jesus's hand into the rebellion that was a common perception of the people from their Messiah. Instead, he finds Jesus willingly being led away and this disturbs him. This wasn't how it was meant to be; Jesus was to put up a fight and lead the people to victory. But what kind of victory? A shallow and short-term sight of humanity. Jesus's victory was to come through a long-range sight for the sake of not just the Jews, but for the whole world.

What is the example of Judas? Not to jump the gun when we think something isn't right but to seek the answers. To pray and trust that God is in the midst of this working his purpose out. Let us seek God's reign of justice and peace that we may live peaceably in God's world as God's children.