

(Memorial Day)

MEMORIAL TO INFAMY

Matt. 27:7

INTRODUCTION:

Just across the Potomac River from Washington, D. C., in Arlington National Cemetery is a monument, a memorial to the nameless dead of all our wars. It is called the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Buried there is a nameless young man who gave his life for his country, during the First World War. That grave is a monument to all who have given their lives in conflict but especially for those boys who were never identified. When they died, every means of identification was destroyed with them. This grave is a monument to all the nameless heroes.

Now this memorial is a reminder of these fine, courageous, young boys who gave the supreme sacrifice. Webster says that this is a building, a pillar, or a stone erected to the memory of the dead, or to a person or an event.

Today we are thinking about Memorial Day, a time of memory of those who come to mind at noble remembrances.

Several Dishonorable Memorial Bible - Absalom's Tomb or Pillar 2 Sam 18:18  
no son to his name in remembrance - Built Per. Dale 5:8 & Jer. 26:18  
Beneath tree, pit

In this sermon, I want to talk to you about an (unfortunate) case in which there is a memorial which reminds us of one who was not so noble, but who was instead famous for infamy. Here is a memorial to a dishonorable deed, a disgraceful act. And we do so by first marking the sight. Second, the meals before the betrayal. And third, the memorial to infamy.

Heaps of stones  
O my son  
Absalom  
would  
had I had  
died for thee

Establish the Memorial

Memorial Plot.

I. MARKING THE SIGHT

2-7-8

11 This is a case concerning the (potter's field) spoken of in Matt. 27 and they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field, in which to bury strangers in. Wherefore that field was called the field of blood, unto this day. 11 The (priest) dare not take this money, the 30 pieces of silver that they had offered Judas, and Judas had returned. And according to recorded history, this was to be the burial ground for homeless Gentiles. That night in Gethsemane - Jesus had renewed his pledge to the will of God. Judas had given himself to Satan. Had bargained for a sale. And had delivered Jesus into the hands of the blood thirsty group. And the temple guard, he identified Jesus with a kiss. Jesus was led away. Judas disappeared into the night. And it was uncertain, Pilate had delivered him and Jesus was to be crucified.

Judas then was seized with an uncontrolable desire to undo what he had done. He hurried back--and he tried to redo his bargain, saying, I have betrayed innocent blood.

The wretched man turns to his partners, he can no longer keep the money, and he cast it on the floor before the priest.

What were the priests now to do with the money. Every coin was stained with blood. And it could not be placed in the sacred treasury. And they would not use it to enrich themselves.

*Tradition says* This very location Jeremiah The Prophet visited "The Potters House" & Watched as he wrought a work on the wheels. *Jer 18:1-4*

The bed was no longer rich in clay. It was of no more use to the potter.

He was glad to get rid of the piece of ground - therefore, it was purchased with the 30 pieces of silver that had been blood stained. And was to be a ground where they could bury strangers. A plot for Gentiles and dogs.

As we mark the sight, it was to be known as the field of blood. It remains to this day, a reminder of the crime - the crime of Judas.

*Establishing This Memorial*

II. THE MEALS PRECEEDING THE BETRAYAL

We have marked the sight. Now there were two meals or suppers that preceeded the establishment of this memorial.

*Mat. 26:16 -*  
First, the meal in the house of Simon, the leper. There was a gathering, and Mary of Bethany was there. And she was moved to anoint his feet with costly ointment from an alabaster box. And all the greed that was in the heart of Judas erupted. He demanded to know why this was not sold and the money given to the poor. He felt that he had been cheated. He had carried the treasury bag and and he persistently looked for coins to fill the purse.

Greed is a powerful motive. It is questionable if anything else causes so many ill deeds. Greed puts the weapon in the hand of the murderer. Greed can turn the ordinary business into a cesspool of lies. The bodies of men and women have been sold for gold.

*V. 7*  
But Mary, the sacrificer is here, and it shows the very nature in her heart. It was very costly. And the costlier the better to show her deep love. Now hypocrites would have been content to give the Lord less. But she anointed him and wiped his feet with her hair. The Lord loveth a cheerful giver and Mary was not just offering her personal treasures but she surrendered herself. And that was the influence of it.

*V. 8*  
And Judas, the criticiser did not appreciate this gift. Because as John says

he was a thief. He would rather have this money in his bag for his own advantage.

He did not care for the poor - he was not interested in them. And as he talked about what purpose is this waste - the word waste here that Judas used, is the same word that our Lord used when he turned to him. Where the spirit is self seeking, there is blindness. To the honor and the glory of Jesus Christ.

V. 10 Now Jesus, the justifier, said let her alone. And he understood the significance of this silent servant. To his soul he viewed this in the light

V. 12 of his death and his burial - and the son of God who was sacrificing himself for sinners will never put anything in the way of the believer who has a great-ful heart and wants to show his devotion to him, to do so in the fullest extent. He knows that such love and sacrifice will have its corresponding reward.

V. 13 If there is any one today who wants to do something for Jesus, he will not stand in your way of doing it. He knew that there were only a few who cared to go to this length in honoring him. And to magnify him.

26: 18 Second, the meal of The Last Supper. This is another occasion that we find connected with this memorial of infamy. It is one of the darkest riddles of history. Not only do we find it expressed in the first meal, but now in The Last Supper. When they are gathered together that night before the crucifixion. Jesus probably had explained to them the meaning of the Passover as related to God's deliverance of Israel from bondage of Egypt - and then he threw a bomb shell.

V. 21

<sup>11</sup> Verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. Matt. 26:21. <sup>11</sup>  
The word verily is a solemn statement - it was just like the prophets - thus saith the Lord. Truly this was a solemn and awful word. One of you shall betray me. The word rendered betray means to hand one over as for execution. The same word used delivering Jesus to Pilate for death.

The only difference here is the degree of infamy in the word here as used by Jesus. The Sanhedrin was openly opposed to him. And they had vowed their purpose to put him to death. But Pilate acted in weakness - morally and spiritually. In an official capacity.

But in the case at hand, Jesus said, one of you shall betray me or hand me over for execution. One of you on the inner circle.

If I asked you, where would you expect to find loyalty to Jesus? In the inner circles, among his disciples, if anywhere, you would say. What about the church today. What about the group of disciples today. Yet Jesus said, one of you shall betray me - out of the group that had enjoyed the fellowship with him.

It is unthinkable, isn't it. The serpent entered the garden and led Adam and Eve from God.

It is no wonder the Bible warns us to ever be on the alert. That the enemy of our soul roams the streets seeking whom they may devour.

V. 22 Truly this was shocking - they looked at each other wondering who the betrayer was. Finally one, by one, each asked - Lord, is it I. V. 22. That is all except Judas. It was a negative answer. Or question. A question that invites a negative answer.

Jer. 17:9 says, the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Who can know it? Then he adds that only the Lord knows mens hearts. One of you shall betray me. Think of all that Judas had seen and heard of Jesus. And of the place that he occupied, the high privilege that he had, etc.

In our complacency danger lerks. What would we do if called upon to lay our lives on the line for Christ. Do you hear him saying, one of you shall deny me.

Or still worse, by your conduct he says, one of you is denying me now.

26:23 " The question - he that dippeth his hand with me in the dish - the same shall betray me." So this did not point out the person. But in giving the first morsal to Judas, Jesus was not only showing to John who would betray him, but proving to the traitor that he knew all that was in his evil heart and he loved him to the end. Had he not washed his feet - washed the very dust off. Judas or any other who had sinned, their soul is doomed - and they must do so against Jesus Christ. But this was a lesson to the betrayer and to his heart.

And Jesus said <sup>//</sup> what thou doest, do quickly! <sup>//</sup> Now the disciples thought that Judas had gone on an errand of mercy. And what a shock when Judas turned traitor.

V. 30 (He went out, it was night.) Christ did not cast him out. He preferred to go out into the night rather than abide in the light. He loved the darkness rather than the light. Because his deeds were evil. He went out - his choice was finally made. Think of what he went out from. And what he

went out to.

The field of blood became a memorial to his deceit and the 30 pieces of silver for which he sold his Lord was used to purchase this memorial sight.

Judas regarded the Lord with contempt. Judas may have expected Jesus Christ to become a king and fulfill his own ambitions.

But hate ruled in his heart, until Judas wanted to dispose of Christ. But not in an ordinary way but through contempt. And the temple priest had clamored for his blood.

And he displayed the greatest token of love and in his kiss, he displayed hate. A fervent expression of love was used - contempt. He sold Christ for so little. The price of a slave. That he regarded Jesus Christ as no more than just a small piece of property.

He went out from the (best company) on earth, into the company of God hating, Christ rejecting murderers.

He went out from the (rule and service) of the son of God into the rule and slavery of Satan.

He went out from the (place of light and hope), into the night and darkness of despair.

He went out from the (offering of eternal blessedness) to the place of eternal doom.

Yes, he went out (rejecting his last chance) of salvation. Having refused Christ's place - there is nothing for him now but his own place.

V. 49. Satan had entered his heart. There may be all kinds of excuses for the sin in Judas or in any other person - but in the end there is only one explanation. Satan and wickedness of the heart, human heart, he pledged himself to the enemies of Christ. He kept his bargain.

Thus it happens in the life of many a man. For a moment of pleasure, for a passing honor, for a stack of coins, Satan enters a man and purchases his allegiance. To the power of Hell.

The field of blood, then becomes a memorial to infamy, for its purpose, for use - it had been purchased for the fact that Judas himself was to be first, to be buried there - marked the potter's field. As a memorial to the end of all who would die in such a sinful way.

27: 4-5 After Judas had flung the 30 coins at the feet of the priest, fled the money, and the money was used to purchase the field for a graveyard, to bury strangers - any Gentile who died within the city gates. The field of blood would become a memorial of infamy - however, it had been purchased for a nobler use than a burying ground - for outcasts. The first grave dug there was for Judas.

When hopelessness and despair overcome Judas, he went out and hanged himself. A manner of death which seemed to suggest itself only in a base heart.

In the entire Bible, there are only two cases of self hanging recorded.



Not off  
-9- words Predestinate - Eph. Ch 1  
N.T. Rom 8 &

The other case, was when a man by the name of Ahithophel - the counselor friend of David. The counselor and friend of David betrayed his master to the enemy forces as Judas betrayed Christ. He came to the same end.

Did Jesus know Judas was going to betray him? - yes - Bible, he knew from Beginning.  
What chance did Judas have not to betray him? Wasn't he predestined to betray him? No predestination here -  
Rom. 8:28-30 - God never predestine anyone to do anything that is wicked -  
But He does predestine people to be justified, Born again,

III. A MEMORIAL TO INFAMY

Acts  
1:15-19

In Acts 1:15 - Peter stood up to speak unto the Disciples and in the 16th verse, he spake concerning Judas. V. 18 - he said now this man purchased a field with a reward of iniquity. And he tells about it. And falling headlong he bursts asunder, in the midst of all - his bowels gushed out - and he went on to tell that it was known as the field of blood. The memorial of infamy.

It tells how Judas hanging himself, chose this place, where perhaps there was some trees over looking the potter's field. The very spot where he would hang himself. And suspended the rope and the rope snapped and falling headlong he burst asunder. And because of the blood of Judas that had gushed out on the ground and the blood money that was used to purchase it, the old place became known as a field of blood. When the field was subsequently purchased as a graveyard for outcasts - Judas was buried there. He was the first grave. To a very honorable - to every honorable man, Judas was an outcast. Where else could you bury such a man as this. A stranger to God, an outcast to man, certainly an memorial to infamy.

God had tried to confront this man with his sins. First of all, he tried to make this man stop, and see, and think what he was doing. As it were, he said, look what you are. And what you are contemplating. And you are already doing things like that.

*Judas Sold Jesus out!*

The second thing he tried to do was to confront him with himself.

He bids him to look at himself and to see the awfulness of sin. But in spite

of love's last appeal, Judas turned his back upon him.

*Dr. Ebbelman - Christmas A.M. - 8:30 - Family 3 children, no food, Got Toys - Food - Ask about Husband Penitentiary - Christmas Murder & robbery. - S.S. Check not come, so your Husband is responsible for this heartache. Sadly she said, yes, Never a man, He belongs to a che, He sold us out, like Judas.*

Today hearts are broken because of some daughter or son who breaks a heart

and goes on just as Judas to betray and to go on in sin.

Today speaks to us as man's inhumanity to man. It is as nothing compared to his inhumanity to God. When he came and gave Jesus the kiss to deny him

of the love that he might have had in his heart.

*Judas, did NOT Need to hang himself - The story did not need to end like that! Simon Peter, sold Jesus out, but didn't hang himself. Judas might have come to Jesus & wept -*

This memorial might have been different. It might have been as gracious and as loving as some of the memorials that you will visit - or perhaps in some cemetery over this memorial day, that you will think about. Why did Judas commit this debased crime. What were his motives.

This is an unbelievable tragedy - this drama here at Calvary. If we could recapture this scene after Judas struck his bargain with the high priest and went out and made an appointment with the enemy. And Jesus had tried to win him to a place of honor. As they requested, is it I? And Jesus sternly said, that thou doest quickly. Judas arose, slammed the door, can you not hear it now. And it was night.

Judas, you had the power and a choice right to the end. And you chose the night. You left the light of Jesus Christ.

There is a story attached to Lenore Davinci's painting of The Last Supper. To obtain models for The Last Supper, he obtained the face and figures that he thought would be expressed of the Disciples and of course all the figures he had of Jesus and Judas. After a long search, he found a face that satisfied him.

And as a suitable model for the sacred features of Jesus, a noble and beautiful youth in the choir of Malan in the cathedral - years passed while the artist sought for one willing to portray the face of Judas. At length, he found one in a Roman prison. When the prisoner arrived at the studio, his eyes fastened upon the figure of Jesus. That is a good face, said the artist. Yes, replied the man slowly - "it was mine once." Five years of sin have made the dreadful transformation.

Judas never falls slowly, or suddenly. It takes step by step.

This leads us to say that here is a tragic part of this Memorial. There could have been glory in it like some of those that you will visit. Had Judas gone to Jesus instead of the Sanhedrin or the priest and pled for pardon for his crime - he would have still stood in the glory of God's forgiving love.

True repentance comes from a terrified conscience. Oh, that it had been in Judas to flee to Christ. If only he had rushed to Jesus and cast himself at his feet. The example of repentance instead of warning against going on with his blind ambition.

*J. Winston Ruess - Touching Story Family Devotions, children & parents took turns reading the scriptures, one A.M. of yr. old insisted, he allowed to read Bible that day. Other children ridiculed the idea, she can not read. Wise mother intervened & allowed her to try her skill - She opened Bible to Gen. understood a verse & sin. He confessed it. He cast away the reward money of his iniquity. He quoted, deamed 55. "God is love"; Psalms ... And it love; Matt ... God is love. Older children said, we tell you not read Bible - Mother, yes, she can, when we learn to read the Bible, it says "God is love" on every page!*

The only thing many persons lack in being forgiven - a Godly sorrow for sin may fill their hearts. Perhaps they may confess their sins. In a sort of relief from a tormented conscience. But they never cast themselves at the feet of Jesus. That is the only place to find forgiveness.

Man cannot find or trust his faith to fellowmen. And this is what Judas did

and made a mistake. They all turned their backs on Judas. Man cannot trust himself to man. Man cannot trust himself to himself. To overcome his torment and his remorse. Man cannot do this. But Judas went on to provide his own destruction. And men are doing that today through liquor and worldly delight.

Lord, thou knowest how often we have betrayed thee - by our weak surrender to unChristlike forces. To our own love of ease and popularity. Stab our consciences awake. That we may be loyal to Thee. May this marvelous day, as we review a man who was trying to get ahead, to grab all that was in sight, who would sell his Saviour for the price of slave and then reap then six feet of ground as a memorial.

Judas did not start out this way with this purpose. It was day after day - he had the warning over and over again.

The memorial to infamy - what will be your thoughts, and your choice.