

CHOOSE GRACE
MATTHEW 27:1-5

- I heard the story of two friends who were talking to each other. One remarked to his friend and said, “Man, you look so depressed. Whatever could you be thinking about to depress you so?” His friend quickly replied, “My future.” “Your future?” his friend said. “Whatever in the world would make it so hopeless?” to which his miserable friend sighed and unhappily said “My past.”

Matthew 26:75 NLT Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me." And he went away, weeping bitterly.

- Simon started the day thinking he was the most important disciple
- He continued the evening with a pledge of never deserting Jesus and giving his life if needed

Matthew 26:75 NLT Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me." And he went away, weeping bitterly.

- He cut off an ear of a servant in the garden and Jesus put it back on
- He ended the day denying Jesus three times, just as Jesus said he would

Matthew 26:75 NLT Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me." And he went away, weeping bitterly.

- There are times in our lives that are pivotal and determine the direction of the days that follow
- William Brown, "Failure is an event, never a person."
 - Simon would say yea right.

There was another one of the disciples that denied Jesus that evening named – Judas

- Matthew puts these events side by side in his gospel as if to be taken together
- Judas was chosen by Jesus
- Judas left all to follow Jesus as the others had
- He was a follower of Jesus, a preacher of the new kingdom, a miracle worker

There was another one of the disciples that denied Jesus that evening named – Judas

- He heard Jesus teach, saw most of the mighty miracles Jesus performed – feeding 5,000, healings, calming storms, raising Lazarus
- He was given a place of prominence in the group as the treasurer
- He had the same teaching, training and experience as the rest

Jesus gives us some insight into Judas' character

- **John 6:70-71 NLT** 70 Then Jesus said, "I chose the twelve of you, but one is a devil." 71 He was speaking of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, one of the Twelve, who would later betray him.
 - One is like the devil, a deceiver, a liar
 - **Matthew 16:23-24 NLT** 23 Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's."

Jesus gives us some insight into Judas' character

- **John 12:4-6 NLT** 4 But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, 5 “That perfume was worth a year’s wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor.” 6 Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples’ money, he often stole some for himself.

Jesus gives us some insight into Judas' character

- **Matthew 26:14-16 NLT** 14 Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests 15 and asked, “How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?” And they gave him thirty pieces of silver. 16 From that time on, Judas began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

Jesus gives us some insight into Judas' character

- **Matthew 26:47-49 NLT** 47 And even as Jesus said this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the leading priests and elders of the people. 48 The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal: “You will know which one to arrest when I greet him with a kiss.” 49 So Judas came straight to Jesus. “Greetings, Rabbi!” he exclaimed and gave him the kiss.
 - Judas called Jesus Rabbi (teacher), not Master or Lord

Jesus gives us some insight into Judas' character

- **Matthew 26:50 NLT** Jesus call Judas friend - Jesus said, "My friend, go ahead and do what you have come for."
- Both Simon and Judas were deniers, betrayers of the trust Jesus had given them
- We know how Simon responded, let's look at Judas' response

- **Matthew 27:1-5 NIV** 1 Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. 2 So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

- **Matthew 27:1-5 NIV** 3 When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. 4 “I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.” “What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.” 5 So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

We must be careful not to assume we know the heart of Judas, only God knows the heart

- Judas' denial was premeditated where Simon's was fearful spur of the moment, but both were denials of Jesus
- Both thought they had the situation all figured out and how they would respond, but both were stunned at the results

We must be careful not to assume we know the heart of Judas, only God knows the heart

- Both were given warnings by Jesus
 - Simon told directly by Jesus
 - Judas as Jesus washed his feet and sat him in the place of importance by His side during dinner

We must be careful not to assume we know the heart of Judas, only God knows the heart

- Jesus knew what was going to happen, but they were responsible for their own decisions and actions
- Both failed but their response to their failure was drastically different and put them on two entirely different paths

We are told Judas turned inward and tried to fix it himself

- **Vs. 3** When Judas saw that Jesus was condemned
- Judas was just like Simon – he had seen Jesus walk away from events like this numerous times without harm and that is what he assumed would happen this time
- He was seized with remorse – deep regret or guilt for a wrong committed, sorrow

We are told Judas turned inward and tried to fix it himself

- The regret of Judas was focused on the fact that he had done something wrong and the consequence were not what he expected or desired
- He was sorry it did not turn out like he expected, Sorry he got caught and did not want the results

We are told Judas turned inward and tried to fix it himself

- He did what so many of us would do – he tried to fix it himself without others knowing about it
- He tried to return the thirty pieces of silver, he needed an undo
- He realized his guilt by betraying an innocent man

We are told Judas turned inward and tried to fix it himself

- **Vs. 4** “I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.”
- Not just against Jesus, but the Law as well
- **Exodus 20:16 NIV** “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.”

We are told Judas turned inward and tried to fix it himself

- This was not fixable, but I believe it was forgivable
- **Matthew 12:32 NLT** 32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.
- Blasphemy = Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit has to do with accusing Jesus Christ of being demon-possessed instead of Spirit-filled

We are told Judas turned inward and tried to fix it himself

- This particular type of blasphemy I do not believe can be duplicated today
- Judas's response – **vs. 5** So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.
- Was this really his only choice?
- Judas turned inward toward himself rather than outward toward Jesus

We find Simon turned outward to the Lord Jesus Christ in repentance

- We left Simon in **Matthew 26:75** And he went away, weeping bitterly.
- These were not tear of “Oh I wish I had not been caught.”
- These were tears of repentance or sorrow for bringing shame and sorrow to the Lord Jesus Christ

We find Simon turned outward to the Lord Jesus Christ in repentance

- Simon was left on the ground in tears of repentance and Peter walked forward
- **Mark 16:7 NLT** Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died.”

We find Simon turned outward to the Lord Jesus Christ in repentance

- Peter returned to where He was supposed to be, with the rest of the disciples
- How hard would that have been
 - They knew his failure
 - They were not sure what was going to happen next

We find Simon turned outward to the Lord Jesus Christ in repentance

- How hard would that have been
 - Would Jesus really forgive Peter?
 - Would Jesus ever be able to trust Peter again?
 - Peter knew something deep into his core

We find Simon turned outward to the Lord Jesus Christ in repentance

- **John 6:66-69 NLT** 66 At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him. 67 Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, “Are you also going to leave?”
 - Peter knew something deep into his core

We find Simon turned outward to the Lord Jesus Christ in repentance

- 68 Simon Peter replied, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. 69 We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God.”
- Peter knew if there was any hope for his life it was in the hands of the Holy One of God
- Judas had his mind on himself, Peter had his mind on Jesus

Peter chose to trust grace

- Peter now knew he was unworthy to even untie the sandal laces of Jesus Christ like John the Baptist
- **John 1:26-27 NLT** 26 John told them, “I baptize with water, but right here in the crowd is someone you do not recognize. 27 Though his ministry follows mine, I’m not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandal.”

Peter chose to trust grace

- So, it is not being worthy that allows one close to Jesus
- Peter recalled all the ones Jesus had healed and forgiven
- Some could not even ask for it
- Most did not even believe it was possible, but in hope they came to him

Peter chose to trust grace

- You can hear Peter say, “I’m no more worthy than the demon possessed person, but Jesus had grace for them. Maybe he will have grace for me.”
- Judas turned inward and was left with his grief and sorrow and there is no answer to that inward
- Result - He hung himself in hopelessness

Peter chose to trust grace

- Peter turned outward to Jesus in repentance and found grace greater than all his sins
- He not only lived and was restored, but became one of the main voices of the early church, preaching the first sermon at Pentecost where 3,000 souls were saved

Sin and/or failure has a way of marking us, leaving scars in our memories

- We can hide them by putting them in a room in our heart and sealing the door, try not to think about them, plan on being better
- We can be forgiven of them by claiming the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
- Allow Christ to not just forgive us, but cleanse us from all unrighteousness

Sin and/or failure has a way of marking us, leaving scars in our memories

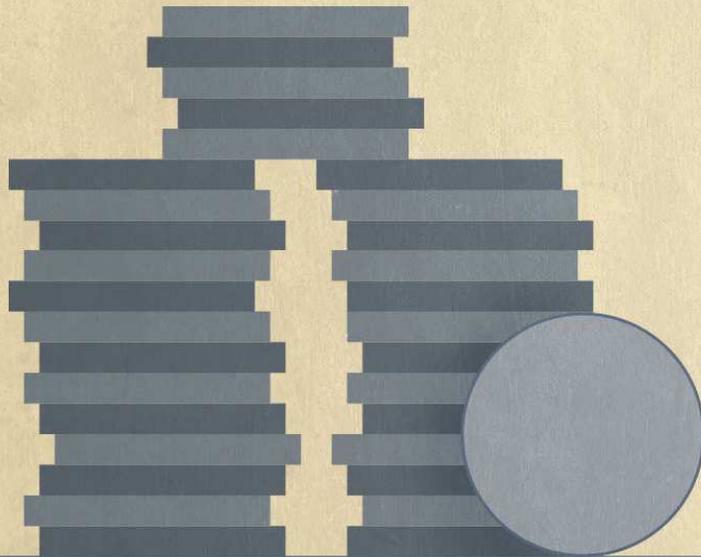
- **1st John 1:8-9 NIV** 8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Sin and/or failure has a way of marking us, leaving scars in our memories

- Just like Peter, we must not separate ourselves from the rest
- Randy it will be embarrassing – Not for Jesus
- Randy everyone will judge me – Not from Jesus and probably not from anyone

Sin and/or failure has a way of marking us, leaving scars in our memories

- You must come back to the place where you exited and begin anew
- Peter is our example today of turning defeat into triumph through the grace of Jesus Christ
- We can rejoice today because his path can still be path today



CHOOSE GRACE
MATTHEW 27:1-5

Announcements

- Wednesday, 7:00, Pizza Night
 - No video this week
 - Food Distribution on Wednesday