LifeBridge BAPTIST CHURCH

Worship Service
March 15, 2020
Pastor Chris Regas

The Passion of Christ

Lesson Six • Matthew 27:1-10

The Gospel Triumphs Through Tragedy

It's Easy to Think God Is Silent or Passive in the Midst of Tragedy.

But the Triune God does His **GREATEST WORK** in the middle of and on the other side of individual and global crisis.

The Gospel Triumphs THROUGH Tragedy

"Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God." Acts 14:22

Two Tragedies and a Triumph

1. The Tragedy of Hard-Hearted REBELLION. *27:1-2*

- Hard hearts plot to **OVERTHROW** the King. *(1, 7)*
  "took counsel" ESV, *"conferred together"* NAS, *"plotted"* CSB

A Heart Rebellion to Silence the King and His Good News
Matthew 12:14; 22:15; 27:1, 7; 28:12

A Relational Hardness as Seen in Being...

1. **UNJUST** to the innocent
2. **UNMERCIFUL** to the guilty
3. **UNFAITHFUL** to the Lord.
4. **UNBELIEVING** in the Gospel.

- God's gracious sovereignty **SURROUNDS** our tragedies. *(1-2, 9-10)*
  Matthew 17:22-23; 20:18-19; 27:2; see also 24:9

- Hard-hearted rebellion will be **DEFEATED** in the end. *(9-10)*

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive." Genesis 50:20

2. The Tragedy of Half-Hearted REPENTANCE. *27:3-5*

- Judas is consumed with **REGRET** over the outcome of his sin.
  1. Realizes the outcome of his sin...**FINALLY**.
  2. Regrets the outcome of his sin...**EMOTIONALLY**.
  3. Reverses the outcome of his sin...**HOPELESSLY**.

- Half-hearted repentance **FAILS** to pay our sin debt to God.
  1. Feeling **EMOTION** is not sufficient. *2Corinthians 7:10-11*
  2. Taking **ACTION** is not sufficient.
  3. Making **CONFESSION** is not sufficient.
  4. Choosing self-**CONDEMNATION** is not sufficient.

  Suicide did not condemn Judas but it did seal his destiny because he died in his sins.
  Suicide is not the unpardonable sin, but it is sin. Therefore, it's never God's will for people created in His image.

- Half-hearted repentance will lead to **DAMNATION** in the end.
  Deuteronomy 27:25; Matthew 26:24; Acts 1:25; John 6:70-71; John 17:12

3. The Triumph of the Gospel Changes HEARTS.

- The gospel was **ACCOMPLISHED** through these tragedies.
  Acts 1:15-26; 2:23-24; 4:27-30

- The gospel **APPLIED** will deliver you through your tragedies.
  Acts 2:36-37; 40-42; 20:20-22; 26:19-21
  1. **REPENTANCE** toward God with our *whole-heart*.
  2. **FAITH** in Christ alone with a *humbled heart*.
  3. **PERSEVERANCE** in following Christ with a *new heart*.

- The gospel is our only hope of **DELIVERANCE** in the end.

No heart is **so hard** *that the gospel cannot* **soften** *it.*
No heart is **so hopeless** *that the gospel cannot* **save** *it.*

The Gospel of Grace Always Triumphs Through Tragedy!

Repent of your heart sins and run to Jesus to receive a new heart.

Our biggest concern in life is not sickness; it's sin. By all means, let's do all we can to limit the spread of physical disease. But our precautions against vice should be even more than our precautions against a virus. - Kevin DeYoung

PETER'S REPENTANCE and JUDAS'S REGRET

"For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter. 2 Corinthians 7:10-11

PETER	*Contrast*	JUDAS
IMPULSIVE DENIAL under PRESSURE		INTENTIONAL BETRAYAL by PLANNING
SINFUL WEAKNESS		SINFUL WILLFULNESS
HUMBLED HIMSELF: *Humbled Heart Filled with Hope*		HUNG HIMSELF: *Hard Heart Filled with Hopelessness*
ACCEPTED SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONEMENT *Christ Carried His Sins on the Cross.*		ATTEMPTED SELF-ATONEMENT *Carried His Own Sin into Condemnation.*
Christ Is His INTERCESSOR and SOVEREIGN SAVIOR		Christ Is His ACCUSER and SOVEREIGN JUDGE
RECONCILED with God Through Jesus Christ		SEPARATED from God and Jesus Christ
LAST RECORDED WORDS – 2 Peter 3:18 *"To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."*		LAST RECORDED WORDS – Matthew 27:4 *"I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."*
Reminder: How LOW a TRUE BELIEVER Can FALL!		Reminder: How HIGH a FALSE BELIEVER Can RISE!
True WHOLE-HEARTED Repentance		False HALF-HEARTED Repentance

"Late repentance is seldom true, but true repentance is never too late. *– Ralph Venning (1622-1674)*