

Following Jesus to the Cross

By Mary Kane

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Good Friday is a day of quiet reflection and meditation. As Christians, on this day, we are often torn between sorrow and thankfulness. We are sorrowful because Jesus suffered and died on the cross, and thankful because Jesus took our place and suffered and died on the cross.

As I was studying to write this devotional, I learned something new about Good Friday—Jesus wasn't the only one who died on Good Friday, Judas did as well. As I considered these two deaths, I began to contrast them in

my mind.¹

Judas	Jesus
Killed himself	Sacrificed Himself
His will	His Father's will
Hanged on a tree	Hanged on a cross
Guilty	Innocent
Died for his sins	Died for the sins of man
Destruction	Salvation
Potter's Field	An empty tomb
30 pieces of silver	The Blood of Christ

When I was younger I used to hate Judas because he betrayed our Lord for thirty pieces of silver. As Christians, we would never do that...or would we? Haven't there been times when we have chosen other things over Christ? Time with Christ can be too easily replaced with controversial TV programs, questionable movies, and provocative books. However, we don't always replace time with Jesus with *bad things*; time with Him can be

¹¹ http://www.freedigitalphotos.net/images/view_photog.php?photogid=3840

replaced with good things as well such as exercise, music, knitting or reading.

Now that I'm older I feel fear and sorrow over the life of Judas. Fear, because one could walk so physically close with Jesus and still not have a heart for Him; sorrow, because Judas' life did not have to end the way he choose. Jesus went to the cross for Judas as well. Instead of turning to Christ to solve his guilt and sin problem, Judas turned to death. The legacy of Judas could have been one of grace and forgiveness.

Have you placed anything above God in your life?

How can you fix this error?

Prayer:

Dearest Holy Father,

Thank you so much that Jesus went to the cross for every one of my sins. Thank you that I need not shrink back in fear, but may boldly come to the throne room and confess my sin to You. You are faithful and just to forgive me of my sin and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness. Thank you, Jesus, for going to the cross in my place. I accept your death on the cross as payment for my sin. Help me to love You and follow You all the days of my life.

In Jesus Holy Name,

Amen.

(If you have not yet accepted Christ as your personal Savior, please take a moment and ask Him to come in to your heart right now. There is no better time to become a Christian than Easter time!)

On this day of reflection and meditation let us ask God to forgive us for the times we have chosen other things over Him and accept the grace and forgiveness that He poured out on the cross as freely as His blood.

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