

Vessels of Wrath Prepared for Destruction

Sermon 86 in the Matthew Series

Matthew 27:1-12; Romans 9:21-23

Romans 9:21-23 -- Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? *What* if God, wanting to show *His* wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory,

The plans and purposes of God are not like our plans and purposes.

- But they always ultimately go according to God's eternal plan.
- They always ultimately go to bring glory and honor to God.
- They always work together for good – for those who love God.

I. Our Lord Taken to Pilate 27:1-2

Pontius Pilate is one of the most famous Romans of all, but it is almost exclusively because of his interactions with Jesus. If not for that, he would be just another one of the minor, forgotten authoritarian underlings in the pages of Ancient history.

A. Pilate was the ruling authority in the area of Palestine

He answered directly to the magistrate in Syria.

He was appointed by and answered ultimately to Caesar.

B. His character from Scripture and from history.

1. He was a self-seeking man who wanted political power.
2. He cared little or nothing about the Jewish people.
3. He was not shy about murder and bloodshed – Luke 13:1-2
4. There are at least three extra-biblical historical accounts

II. The Tragic End of Judas Iscariot -- 27:3-10

From Dennis Johnson – a professor at Westminster CA.

“Judas’ defection was planned by God and predicted in ancient Scriptures. It had to occur because it was an integral component of God’s surprising strategy to redeem believers through the suffering of His Messiah. Yet Judas was responsible, and his treachery is a solemn warning to us. Paul would later call upon the church elders in Ephesus to stand guard over each other, since some of their own number would distort the truth in order to attract a following for themselves (Acts 20:30-31).

Judas was sorry for what he had done – but not repentant. **v. 3**

The death of Judas and the circumstances around it were well known.

Acts 1:18-19 -- Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.

Unwittingly these authorities fulfill Zechariah's prophecy. **v. 9-10**

Zechariah 11:12-13 -- Then I said to them, "If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them." And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver. ¹³Then the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD, to the potter.

III. God Worked His Purpose through Judas

Mark 14:21 -- The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had never been born."

Luke 22:22 -- And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!"

A. The Character of Judas

1. A Devil – John 6:70
2. A thief – John 12:4-6
3. The Betrayer – John 13:1-3
4. Lost – John 13:10-11
5. The Son of Perdition – John 17:2

His betrayal was a premeditated decision – fully carried out (Matt. 26:14-16; 47-50)

B. Judas in Prophecy

1. John 13:18-19 – Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up *his* heel against me. (acted as a traitor). (Psalm 41:9)

2. Zechariah 11:12-13; Jeremiah 9:1-13; 32:6-9.

3. Peter's inspired interpretation of the Psalms (**Acts 1:16-17; 20**)

Acts 1:20 -- 69:22-28, especially v. 25

Acts 1:20 -- Psalm 109:8 -- Let his days be few, *And* let another take his office.