

At about 13:02 the sermon cut out. It comes back in at about 13:04. The following are the notes from the missing excerpt of the sermon.

He confronted their hypocrisy, the secret sins, the hardness of their hearts... Jesus came demanding allegiance, surrender, obedience, trust... He called men to follow Him, He called them to leave father and mother, to leave their homes, to forsake their families, to prefer Him, to take up their cross and die - and this was all too much for the chief priests and elders who neither knew or loved the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They were of their father, the devil though they pretended to be descendants of the patriarchs.

They certainly held position in the church, they were knowledgeable students of the Bible, but strangers to God himself and so unable to recognize His beloved Son when He came... they were masters of doctrine, but not being His sheep they did not recognize His voice, nor heed Him.

And so Jesus had pointed out these glaring inconsistencies... these men would build monuments to the prophets. How they admired them... but as Jesus said they were "the children of them which killed the prophets." They so carefully cleaned the exterior of the cup, but as Jesus said they were like unto white sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones and of all uncleanness. They were careful to pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin and yet "omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy and faith." They were for straining gnats while swallowing camels.

Do you remember what Jesus said to Paul? "Saul, Saul why persecuted thou ME". When Saul asked Who art thou Lord? The Lord said, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest."

And this has ever been the way. Saul in the name of the God he said he knew and loved persecuting God, persecuting Jesus. These men in the name of the God they said they served, whom they pretended to defend, persecuting God. And today enemies of the cross within the church in the name of the Saviour they profess to love persecute Him. Oh, they think they are doing right, they are serving God, they are

crossing t's and dotting i's, paying tithes of mint, cumin and anise, but persecuting the followers of Christ and so Jesus says, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.

But then second, we come to Judas' suicide and its aftermath... Judas has seen to it as the chief priests and elders suggested, and now they must decide what to do with the money... and once again they are careful with their mint, their cumin and their anise. Listen to them... "It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. And they took counsel and bought with them the potters' field, to bury strangers in."

If it were not so wicked it would be laughable. These are the men who gave the silver to Judas, who paid him to betray Jesus. These men are suddenly concerned about the price of blood, but how did this come to be the price of blood in the first place? At their instigation. This was their plan. We rightly fault Judas for his wicked betrayal of his Master, but bear in mind this didn't happen in some vacuum. There would have been no betrayal if they hadn't been willing participants in it. This money would still be in their pockets, Judas would still be alive if they hadn't paid him. They are the ones who made this happen.

Consider it from two angles. First Judas. He killed himself because overcome with guilt at what they had prompted him to do and then when he came to them to return the money their answer was, what is that to us? You see to that. And Judas will answer for his betrayal and for self-murder, but there is certainly a sense in which his blood is on their hands.

Second Jesus. In speaking of the price of blood who are they referring to? Judas is dead, and his blood is on their hands, but they aren't referring to Judas. They are referring to Jesus. Remember Judas' confession. The blood of Jesus was innocent blood...