

THE MISTAKE OF YOUR LIFE

Matthew 27:3-5

Introduction: There are only two conditions in a person's life that he/she does not make mistakes and that is before being born and after dying. We all make mistakes, however, some are minor and easily fixed. The worst mistake that a person can make is to neglect Christ. Judas had made mistakes before but when he betrayed Christ, he made "THE MISTAKE OF HIS LIFE" and found himself condemned, and too late for atonement.

I. JUDAS' WORST MISTAKE IN LIFE

- Even good people can make mistakes. Judas had once preached the gospel, healed the sick, and was the treasurer for Jesus and the disciples. He was chosen by Jesus and trusted, but the devil entered into him and he went about to betray the Lord.

1. He Sold His Lord. (*Matthew 26:14-16*)

- He had been trusted with the money and could have escaped, no doubt, with much more than the price for which he sold his Master. There is no evidence that he had ever betrayed his stewardship before. The only excuse he could have had was greed for money, and this was a poor one.

2. The Root and Maturity of His Mistake

- The love of money is the root of all evil. This seems to have been where the crime took root. The thought preyed upon his mind and he was deceived into betraying his best Friend. It is a mistake to betray any friend; to betray Christ is a fatal mistake.

3. The Price of His Mistake (*Acts 1:17-18*)

- He received no benefits from the money, never had another minute's pleasure in this world or in the world to come. He was driven to suicide, shamefully falling from the tree from which he hang, and burst asunder, his bowels gushing out.

II. THE WORST MISTAKE IN THE LIFE OF OTHERS

- Their mistakes will not justify our mistakes. Theirs are mentioned that we may get a lesson and a warning to avoid making the fatal mistake that will cause one to be lost forever.
- The worst mistake of your life could be made in a simple and easy way, sometimes stepping too far or hardly far enough. A slip of the foot or move of the finger could be and often has been a fatal mistake, taking life and sending souls to hell.

1. The Mistake of Haman's Life (*Esther 7:9-10*)

- He plotted evil against Mordecai and built a gallows on which to hang him. Haman reaped what he sowed. he dug the pit for another and fell into it himself. The evil that he

had plotted for his fellow man fell upon his own head. He shamefully died on the gallows he built for another.

2. The Mistake of Those Who Plotted Evil Against Daniel (*Daniel 6:24*)

- The men who conceived and planned evil against Daniel, reaped what they sowed. They died under the paw of the same lion that they had expected to kill Daniel. Their wives and children shared in their fate, which was a bonus of punishment heaped upon them.

3. Herod's Mistake in Slaying the Children (*Matthew 2:18-19*)

- Herod ordered the children two years old and under in Bethlehem and the coasts thereof, slain. There was bitter weeping for their children and God sent terrible judgment upon him for this sin.
 - The disease of Herod was a slow fire, not only exhibiting to those who touched him a heat in proportion to the internal wasting of his body, but there was also an excessive desire and craving after food. Thus his insides swelled and worms began to eat away his internal organs. There was an increased violence of breathing. Herod suffered in great agony.
- God inflicted this punishment upon the king on account of his actions of slaying all the innocent little children and babies.

III. MANY ARE MAKING THE SAME FATAL MISTAKE, WHICH WILL COST THEM THEIR SOULS

- Our own neighbors, friends, relatives, and those whom we love and live nearby, are playing the part of fools and will be lost forever.

1. When You Betray Him, You Make the Mistake of Your Life.

- When we live unrighteously we betray Him. When we refuse to accept that which He suffered that we might have, we betray Him. Carelessly drifting through life, hoping that something by way of a miracle will save us, is as good as the devil wants.

2. Exchanging Christ for Worldly Things is the Mistake of Your Life

- Covetously seeking worldly gain, in too big a hurry, no time for Christ. Plenty of time for entertainment of all sort, and pursuing various things trying to satisfy our desires, following the desires of our heart, leaving God to be last.

3. The Mistake of Your Life for the Present May Seem a Trifle

- We don't mean it for a mistake. We intend to continue in sin only for a short time and then give God some time and seek Him. The longer we wait, the tighter sin wraps itself around us. All at once we are facing death and will stand in judgment lacking.

CONCLUSION:

1. All the wealth we may have accumulated and the pleasure we have had, would one day be freely given for an opportunity to correct the mistake that we are now making.
2. When we face death, it might be too late and when we stand at judgment, we know it will be too late.
3. Now is the time to get the priorities straight and focus on our eternal destiny.