

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

Union Valley, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

March 20, 2016 – Outlaws of Easter, Part 2

Have you ever tried to bargain with God? Try to get God interested in your “thing” ... God if you'll do ... I'll will... All through the Bible, the disciples tipped their hand that they were following Jesus, not for God but for themselves.

Matthew 19:27 Peter answered him, “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?”

Matthew 26:6-16 6While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper 7 a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table.

This perfume was worth a year's salary. In the US the average yearly salary is \$50,000, this gives some perspective of how much money was poured out in a second. This kind of jar had to be broken at the top and all used at once. In this time period, people did not bathe regularly and they had no soap or deodorant, so smelling good was very unusual and a luxury.

8When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. 9 “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.” We could have fed a bunch of people for months with this money.

John 12:4-6 This is the same story, but with different details. Judas was the one stirring everyone up and he was not just concerned for the poor, he was talking some of the money. ***4 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, 5 “Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages.” 6 He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.*** Judas from day one was not about what Jesus was doing but what he could get out of it. This was not very smart, because Jesus always knew what people were thinking! Judas was also trying to get the other disciples upset about this. Don't we do this? If we are mad about something, we try and get as many people as possible to join us!

Back to Matthew 26

10 Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. 11 The poor you will

always have with you, but you will not always have me. 12 When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. The messiah can't die. They had been waiting on Jesus for thousands of years and now he is talking about dying. But most important they wondered what would happen to them.

14 Then one of the Twelve – the one called Judas Iscariot – went to the chief priests 15 and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” Judas had been trying to GET something from Jesus for three years and when he realized it wasn't like that he went to Jesus' enemies to see what he could get.

Jesus' enemies were afraid of the crowds so they needed Judas to let them know when Jesus was not with a big crowd. Judas was trying to force Jesus to take action, force him to fight.

When you plan for life takes priority over God's plan for the world, you set yourself up to betray Jesus.

So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. (This was the going price to buy a slave in this time) ***16 From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.***

All of this happened right before Passover which was like the Thanksgiving meal to the Jews. Jesus knew that Judas was a traitor from the beginning, he knew Judas was stealing, he knew Judas was going to betray him.

The next time Jesus saw Judas, guess what he did? ********(he cussed him out, he told the disciples to get him and they all piled on, he posted things about Judas on Facebook) ***NO!*** He washed his dirty, stinking feet!

Then Jesus said to the 12, one of you is going to betray me and turn me over to be killed. Right then, Judas knew he had messed up. He must have said how could I have been so stupid to try and pull anything over on Jesus. At this point, he began to live in regret. As time went by Judas realized that they were going to kill Jesus, he wanted to force Jesus to act like a Messiah that would take over Rome, but instead Jesus allowed himself to be arrested and tried. And Judas had sold out Jesus and received very little from the other side.

Matthew 27:3-5

3 When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. 4 “I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.”

“What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.” 5 So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and

hanged himself. No lightning bolt necessary, no accident, no strange illness. God will not stoop that low. God does not have to do anything. Judas hanged himself.

This outlaw of Easter is for all of us who try and make deals with God, you can't force God's hand.

1. If you're trying to do a deal with God, don't make the deal, just do what you want. God will not stop you.
2. At that point you are responsible for the outcome of your journey. When you come back and say, "I didn't know, or I'm sorry" remember that's your responsibility.
3. Eventually you will begin to self-destruct, no lightning bolts, car wrecks, illnesses needed...
4. At some point, we will surrender to God. You may have scars that won't go away, memories you can't erase, **but God will welcome you back.**

If anyone had leverage with God, it was Jesus at Gethsemane.

God's Alternative: Surrender to God and let Him be responsible.