

(Matthew 27:1-10)**Matthew 27:1-10**

- ¹ When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death:
- ² And when they had bound him, they led *him* away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.
- ³ Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,
- ⁴ Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What *is that* to us? see thou *to that*.
- ⁵ And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.
- ⁶ And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.
- ⁷ And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.
- ⁸ Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.
- ⁹ Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value;
- ¹⁰ And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me.

Judas has always been looked at as a villain in the Bible, similar to Balaam in the Old Testament who gave away the Israelites for possession and position. But in the case of Judas, we find that Judas feels sorry for what he did and hangs himself. Was this deed of his considered as repentance and was he forgiven?

To understand this we need to take another case in the Bible similar to this, the case of Saul the King.

If you read the scriptures King Saul had turned away from the Lord by disobeying instructions given to him by the Lord.

1 Samuel 15:17-28

- ¹⁷ And Samuel said, When thou *wast* little in thine own sight, *wast* thou not *made* the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?
- ¹⁸ And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed.
- ¹⁹ Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?
- ²⁰ And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.
- ²¹ But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.
- ²² And Samuel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams.
- ²³ For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from *being* king.
- ²⁴ And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.
- ²⁵ Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD.
- ²⁶ And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.
- ²⁷ And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent.
- ²⁸ And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, *that is* better than thou.

His disobedience led to his down fall and David was selected and made King over Israel. Even when Saul was justifying himself to Samuel he was trying to pass on his failure on to his subjects. This further angered Samuel and made Samuel to walk away rebuking him.

If you read the **Psalms** of David and the book **1 Samuel** you will notice although Saul caused great difficulties for David and pursued to kill him, yet David had great respect for Saul and did not kill him, even when he had the chances to do so.

Psalms 13

- ¹ To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?
- ² How long shall I take counsel in my soul, *having* sorrow in my heart daily? how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me?
- ³ Consider *and* hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the *sleep of* death;
- ⁴ Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him; *and* those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved.
- ⁵ But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.
- ⁶ I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.

1 Samuel 26:7-11

- ⁷ So David and Abishai came to the people by night: and, behold, Saul lay sleeping within the trench, and his spear stuck in the ground at his bolster: but Abner and the people lay round about him.
- ⁸ Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not *smite* him the second time.
- ⁹ And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless?
- ¹⁰ David said furthermore, *As* the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish.
- ¹¹ The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that *is* at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go.

Take the incident when Saul was defeated in battle and died; David got very angry and killed the man who claimed to have killed Saul. The same Saul who gave him great heart burns and made him run for his life is very dear to him.

2 Samuel 1:4

- ⁴ And David said unto him, How went the matter? I pray thee, tell me. And he answered, That the people are fled from the battle, and many of the people also are fallen and dead; and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also.
- ⁵ And David said unto the young man that told him, How knowest thou that Saul and Jonathan his son be dead?
- ⁶ And the young man that told him said, As I happened by chance upon mount Gilboa, behold, Saul leaned upon his spear; and, lo, the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him.
- ⁷ And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called unto me. And I answered, Here *am* I.
- ⁸ And he said unto me, Who *art* thou? And I answered him, I *am* an Amalekite.
- ⁹ He said unto me again, Stand, I pray thee, upon me, and slay me: for anguish is come upon me, because my life *is* yet whole in me.
- ¹⁰ So I stood upon him, and slew him, because I was sure that he could not live after that he was fallen: and I took the crown that *was* upon his head, and the bracelet that *was* on his arm, and have brought them hither unto my lord.
- ¹¹ Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that *were* with him:
- ¹² And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword.
- ¹³ And David said unto the young man that told him, Whence *art* thou? And he answered, I *am* the son of a stranger, an Amalekite.

- ¹⁴ And David said unto him, How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD'S anointed?
- ¹⁵ And David called one of the young men, and said, Go near, *and* fall upon him. And he smote him that he died.
- ¹⁶ And David said unto him, Thy blood *be* upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the LORD'S anointed.

It was not just love which David had for Saul; it was more of respect which David had for Saul as an anointed man of God.

1 Samuel 15:1

- ¹ Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee *to be* king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.

Even though Saul was been pulled up by the Lord and considered condemned, David knew some thing, due to which he respected Saul. The same was not the case against Balaam. The Israelites pursued Balaam and slaughtered him although he was much anointed at one time.

Numbers 24:2-9

- ² And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding *in his tents* according to their tribes; and the spirit of God came upon him.
- ³ And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said:
- ⁴ He hath said, which heard the words of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling *into a trance*, but having his eyes open:
- ⁵ How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, *and* thy tabernacles, O Israel!
- ⁶ As the valleys are they spread forth, as gardens by the river's side, as the trees of lign aloes which the LORD hath planted, *and* as cedar trees beside the waters.
- ⁷ He shall pour the water out of his buckets, and his seed *shall be* in many waters, and his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted.
- ⁸ God brought him forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn: he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce *them* through with his arrows.
- ⁹ He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion: who shall stir him up? Blessed *is* he that blesseth thee, and cursed *is* he that curseth thee.

Numbers 31:8

- ⁸ And they slew the kings of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain; *namely*, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, five kings of Midian: Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword.

What was special of Saul that David knew?

David knew Saul was going to be saved.

Read **1 Samuel 28:15-19** minutely, especially the words the spirit of Samuel speaks to Saul.

1 Samuel 28:15-19

- ¹⁵ And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do.
- ¹⁶ Then said Samuel, Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the LORD is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy?
- ¹⁷ And the LORD hath done to him, as he spake by me: for the LORD hath rent the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to thy neighbour, *even* to David:

- ¹⁸ Because thou obeyedst not the voice of the LORD, nor executedst his fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath the LORD done this thing unto thee this day.
- ¹⁹ Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines: and to morrow *shalt* thou and thy sons *be* with me: the LORD also shall deliver the host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.

Samuel was a Man of God and he tells Saul that Saul and his sons will be with him. Samuel was surely not in hell therefore Saul and his sons being with him means they were saved.

How was Saul and his sons saved?

If you read the last moments of Saul, you would understand how Saul and his sons were saved in the last moments of their lives.

1 Samuel 31:4-6

- ⁴ Then said Saul unto his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it.
- ⁵ And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him.
- ⁶ So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men, that same day together.

Saul had great respect for God and in himself for being a Man of God. He was anointed at one time by Samuel and that made him realize who he was. Although he was weak in the flesh but his love for God and the respect he had for who he was in the Lord made him and his sons to give up their lives; this saved them.

In the case of Judas although he knew what he did was wrong and killed himself, he was not saved.

John 17:12

- ¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

The reason was if he really wanted to repent he should have turned to Jesus and asked for forgiveness and mercy. Just being sorry for the wrong and giving one's life does not solve the problem, one needs to also turn to the Lord. Since the Lord was revealed to Judas in Jesus Christ, he should have turned to Him.

Even the chief priests knew what they were doing was wrong and thus did not keep the silver coins. They bought the potter's field; the land in which Judas hung himself and declared it as a grave.

The case of Balaam who was an anointed Man of God but due to greed of the flesh gave away the Israelites unto the hands of their enemies. He hardened his heart and did not repent and thus later died a brutal death at the hands of the Israelites.

Therefore repentance is very important for change of heart and to receive forgiveness. But repentance does not end at realizing one's mistake and being sorry, but begins there.

God Bless