

Matthew 27:1-10

- Our past is either a playground for regret or a garden for grace!

- The weight of our guilt cripples, crushes, and condemns.
- The Devil convinces us to live under the illusion of being able to rewrite our past so that we are bound by our sense of controlling its power over our life!

"Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders..." (Matthew 27:3)

- Living in a shadow of our past robs us of opportunities to share how God has redeemed it!

"For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death." (2 Corinthians 7:10)

- Regret leads us to repentance, and repentance leans us on God's great mercy!

"... 'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.'

They said, 'What is that to us? See to it yourself.' And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself." (Matthew 27:4-5)

- We confess our regrets and sins and strip Satan of his power in them!
 - The Devil dances in the ambiguity of our guilt!
 - Forgiveness keeps our focus on our future with Christ...
...while the Devil dwells in the darkness of the past.
 - God's forgiveness is unconditional and absolute!
- When our past is dominated in un-covered regrets we second-guess the capacity of God's redemptive power.

"...And the Lord regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel." (1 Samuel 15:35)

- Our only hope to escape being haunted by our past is Christ's Light break through it!

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God,
"who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." (Revelation 1:8)*

- Your past doesn't define you!

- You are not stranger in God's sight (Matthew 27:7), You are reconciled in Christ as family!
- Pieces of our past binding us to days-gone-by are made whole in our promise of a future!
- We have hope because the Lord of All Time releases us from the shadows of our past!

