

Matthew 27:1-10
The Reprobate

The light of a new day ...

I. The Main Theme: *Jesus' Genuine Passion*

A. The Counsel of Death

B. For the Sake of Sinners

II. The Side Story: *Judas' True Reprobation*

A. The Apostle

1. Bent on Sin
2. Guilty Hands
3. Soul Surrender
4. Devilish Deceit
5. Given Over
6. Deadly Regrets
7. Self-Destruction
8. An Assigned Place

B. With A Grim Legacy

III. A Cautionary Tale: *The Sinner's Only Hope*

A. Know Yourself

B. Seek His Grace

... but the darkness continues.

Children, Listen ...

1. What was happening to Jesus?
2. What had Judas done to Jesus to help make that happen?
3. Was simply being sorry for what he had done enough to save his soul?
4. If someone is not sure if they are right with God, what should they do?

One Clearly Hopeless Case

True reprobation, a condition that describes a person who is destined to damnation, is an extremely difficult doctrine to wrap our minds around. It is not a condition that we can discern in others with our finite insight, nor is it our business to assign someone that grievous title who is still in the land of the living. Some folks display the signs more clearly than others, but even in those cases, who are we to know what God might do before they breath their last breath to change their lives through Christ? Obviously, dying outside of Christ confirms the dreadful condition; the thought of that is chilling in and of itself. But the condition is real.

If ever there was a prime example (a "poster boy" for reprobation), it is the apostle Judas. His antics were prophesied, his actions betrayed his condition, and his alliance with the devil was clear evidence that he was given over to perdition. He was, in fact, beyond repair; his "fate" as it was, was sealed. Make no mistake, he was fully responsible for his reprobate life and he brought it to the ultimate heights by betraying Jesus. What more can be said than what Jesus said: *"The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."* Matthew 26:24

Judas stands as a grim example of a life given over to a worldliness that pledges its allegiance to a Kingdom that is not Christ's. Anyone reading this profoundly sobering account should take heed, and if there is anything in their life that smacks of such a horrific condition, they should flee to the very Christ who was betrayed and seek his mercy and grace while it might be found, pleading to be delivered from such a terrible state of existence. How sovereign grace works, I don't know—*that it works, I am certain of.*

For more on this see Romans 9, Westminster Confession of Faith Chapter III, and John Bunyan's "Reprobation Asserted."