

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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Three People Who Never Had Another Opportunity

Introduction

One of the most heartbreaking clauses one can hear a doctor say is, "I'm sorry, we have done all we can do". Another is, "Sorry, there is no hope". A darkness shadows the day no matter how bright it is outside, and in a state of shock, one mechanically functions. The world goes on, women are out shopping, taxis drive pass, children play in the street, do they not understand the world of darkness you have just entered? There is no sense in making plans for holidays next year, the planning of a child's birthday, or anticipating Christmas, life will be gone and the body either burnt or lying decomposing in the earth.

- a) But that experience is not the worst. It is when one has heard the gospel and the Spirit of God no longer seeks to bring them to repentance. The opportunity for salvation is past and as the Scripture reads, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved" (Jer. 8:20).
- b) Such individuals live those few moments knowing that at some point in the near future they will enter eternity and that black environment of divine judgment knowing God has said, "No Hope".
- c) To live knowing that never again will the spirit of God strive with the individual, the scripture verses learnt will be meaningless, the choruses sung as a child, the communications of others about ones eternal destiny will never be heard again. The individual will have gotten their long desire, "don't bother me about getting saved"!
- d) We read of at least three persons in the Bible who lived life possibly aware God had taken their final answer. They had rejected Him for the last time. Those three are Judas who betrayed the Lord, Herod who silenced God's last voice to him, and the thief who hung on the cross beside the Lord. This paper will deal with Judas and Herod.

Judas

What a tragic figure he conveys. This man lived with the best of godly company who preached the gospel, and was there when persons were healed. He saw transformed lives, he saw dead persons raised, and he sat with the Lord and the disciples in the upper room but was never in fellowship with God. He had all the outward appearances of being a disciple but inwardly he was a self seeking, prosperity seeking thief. There was no love for the Lord but willing to go along and enjoy the benefits of it financially. Then the great opportunity came for financial enrichment. The chief priests wanted to take the Lord and kill Him, but how could they get close enough and not make a mistake. To take the wrong person would result in dreadful consequences. Then Judas came, bargaining with them wanting as much as possible and they wanting to give as little as possible until it was decided, thirty pieces of silver.

- a) Leaving the upper room and the Lord, Judas went to the chief priests with whom he had made the financial agreement. What an agreement, sell the Lord for thirty pieces of silver and be damned in Hell for eternity. In the darkness of the night the motley crowd came with lamps and torches, up from Jerusalem, and into the garden of Olives, Then Judas came to Jesus to kiss him. Whether he kissed the Lord or not I do not know. There are

possibilities and both end the same way. If he did not kiss the Lord, he came as near the door of Heaven as one could come and died entering an eternal night. If he kissed the Lord, he kissed the door of heaven, and knowing the deed was done, went out and ultimately committed suicide. He lived knowing there was no hope of salvation, no hope of redemption, no hope of fellowship with God and with nothing but a spirit of emotional darkness, he hanged himself. Apparently the branch on which he hung himself broke, and falling headlong, his body burst asunder.

Herod

I am sure Herod did not know his eternal destiny was sealed the moment he married Herodias, his brothers wife. That was the first step in His eternal damnation. After John Baptist spoke of Herod's immorality (Mk. 6:18), Herod's wife hated John and wanted to have John killed (Mk. 6:19). At a later time Herod gave a pagan party and, seduced by the dancing of Herodias' daughter, he made a foolish pledge to give the girl whatever she wanted, even to the half of his kingdom. This was the golden opportunity for the hatred of Herodias to gush forth, "The head of John the Baptist". Herod had John killed (Matt. 14:8). With that command he silenced God's last voice to him. Later when the Lord was before Herod, there was no words of gentle calling to repentance, only stony silence. There was nothing to say to Herod. Ultimately, he will hear the Lord speak, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire" (Matt. 25:41). Christ was not a curiosity, Herod was doomed and the Lord said nothing for the man's destiny was sealed. Herod lived the balance of his life knowing not only was he without hope in the world, but also without hope for all eternity. I wonder as he drew that final gasp of air, did he face the stark reality, "I have silenced the voice of God, and there is now no hope."

The individual who today is unsaved. No one knows when the last time will be when God will offer His salvation to the individual. God is not mocked and He says, "My Spirit shall not always Strive with man" (Gen. 6:3). For many alive at this moment, the final choice has been made and they are as these there persons, living the present life and never going to rest in peace but in the torments of the wrath of God eternally.

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