



Skipping Easter

Luke 23:26-24:49

Judas Iscariot

The background of the slide features a photograph of three crosses on a hill. The central cross is the largest and most prominent, with a figure of a person on it. To its left and right are two smaller crosses, also with figures on them. The scene is set against a hazy, orange-tinted sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

- Judas might have been the only non-Galilean among the disciples.
- Maybe Judas betrayed His friend in order to save his own skin.
- Maybe it was simply old-fashioned greed that motivated Judas.
- Maybe Judas came to hate Christ because Jesus could look straight into his heart and see him for who he really was.
- Maybe Judas never intended for Jesus to die.
- Judas may have believed that when they came to arrest Jesus that He would call upon 10,000 angels to destroy the Romans and set Him free.

Consequences



- The consequences of Judas' action were devastating, disastrous, and deadly.
- Judas' betrayal of Jesus was not the end of Christ, it was the end of Judas.
- If you're feeling that you are at the end of your rope, and you feel like throwing in the towel – don't!
- With God, things can change unexpectedly and dramatically for the good.
- When we reject our heavenly Father's gift of Easter, we are missing out on more than we might think.

Judas Missed Out On A Pardon From Christ

- Jesus graciously offered pardon to those who were undeniably guilty of the most monstrous criminal act in all of human history.
- Jesus literally lived and died by his teachings.
- Jesus walked the walk under the most difficult circumstances imaginable.
- Judas was not the only one to blame for what happened to Jesus.
- Jesus would have forgiven Judas who betrayed Him, but Judas skipped Easter and missed out on the pardon of Christ.

Judas Missed Out On The Peace Of Christ

- Judas took his own life because he was so tormented in his soul over “betraying innocent blood.”
- Judas missed the peace of Christ that was coming on Easter Sunday.
- Jesus returned from the dead and brought the gift of peace of mind and soul with Him.
- Jesus made it plain that He was not offering a worldly kind of peace, but a spiritual, supernatural peace.
- Christ does not promise to preserve us from problems, but He does promise to provide peace in the midst of our problems.
- Do not make the same mistake as Judas who skipped Easter and missed Jesus’ provision of peace.

Judas Missed Out On The Power Of Christ



- One thing that Judas had craved all his life, but never had, was power.
- Judas longed for the power to change the status quo, the power to do good.
- The only power Judas found was the power to take his own life.
- Judas wanted the power to change the political scene in a tiny little country in the Middle East, but the disciples received the power to change the whole world.
- Kings have come and gone, empires have risen and fallen, but the power of Jesus Christ is just as potent today as it was on the day of Pentecost, which Judas missed.
- The power of Jesus Christ was not only available to the first disciples but is also available to all of Christ's disciples -- even today.

Judas Missed Out On Paradise With Christ

- Jesus' promise of being with Him in paradise could just as easily been given to Judas if only he had not skipped Easter.
- Jesus promised the repentant criminal that he would be with Him in paradise that very day.
- This criminal was not any more innocent than Judas, so if this criminal could go to paradise, then so could Judas had he not skipped Easter.
- No matter what you've done, no matter how bad it was, you can experience the pardon of Christ and look forward to experiencing paradise with Christ for all of eternity.

Conclusion

The background of the slide features a silhouette of three crosses on a hill, set against a warm, hazy sunset sky. The central cross is the tallest and most prominent, with two smaller crosses on either side. The overall tone is somber yet hopeful, reflecting the religious theme of the text.

- The number one greatest comeback of all time; according to the editors of Sports Illustrated in November 2001, was Jesus Christ.
- Jesus' comeback from death to life still is the greatest comeback of all time.
- Judas missed out on Christ's comeback; therefore, he missed out on his own comeback.
- If Judas had not skipped Easter, he could have written scripture, planted churches, and performed miracles, but he missed out on all of that.
- Jesus Christ died on the cross in order to pay the penalty for sins, so that we would not have to get what we deserve.