

Losing Hope
Finding Hope
Giving Hope

Matthew 27:1-10

Losing Hope...Judas' Story

- *The game was rigged.*

1-2 In the first light of dawn, all the high priests and religious leaders met and put the finishing touches on their plot to kill Jesus. Then they tied him up and paraded him to Pilate, the governor.



Losing Hope...Judas' Story

- *The game was rigged.*
- *Nothing could be done*

³ Judas, the one who betrayed him, realized that Jesus was doomed. Overcome with remorse, he gave back the thirty silver coins to the high priests, saying...



Losing Hope...Judas' Story

- *The game was rigged.*
- *Nothing could be done*
- *No one would listen*

***4 ...saying, “I’ve sinned.
I’ve betrayed an innocent
man.” They said, “What
do we care? That’s your
problem!”***

Losing Hope...Judas' Story

- *The game was rigged.*
- *Nothing could be done*
- *No one would listen*
- *Judas felt alone*

5 Judas threw the silver coins into the Temple and left. Then he went out and hung himself.

Life happens

Control

Stress



Life happens

FEAR

Control

Stress



⁶ The high priests picked up the silver pieces, but then didn't know what to do with them. "It wouldn't be right to give this—a payment for murder!—as an offering in the Temple."

7-8 They decided to get rid of it by buying the “Potter’s Field” and use it as a burial place for the homeless. That’s how the field got called “Murder Meadow,” a name that has stuck to this day.

9-10 Then Jeremiah's words became history: They took the thirty silver pieces, The price of the one priced by some sons of Israel, And they purchased the potter's field. And so they unwittingly followed the divine instructions to the letter.

Life happens

FEAR

Control

Stress



Three facts to consider...

1. You cannot fix yourself or your life...alone.
2. God sees us, God knows us & loves us.
3. God “fixes” us...only with our permission.

Finding Hope...Peter's Story

- 1. His failure was foretold*
- 2. Peter failed...utterly.*
- 3. He went to his only friends...and...*
- 4. He found Jesus waiting.*

Life happens

FEAR

Control

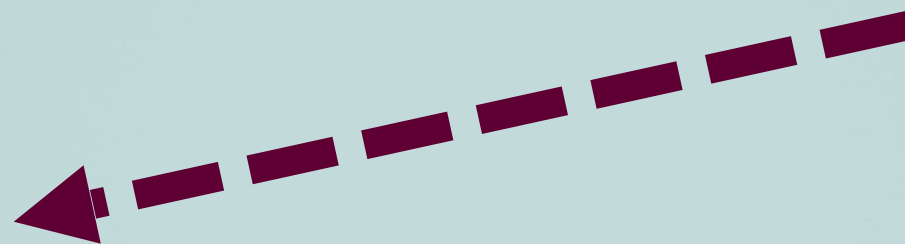
Stress

**Giving
Thanks**

Faith

LOVE

**Surrender to Jesus'
desires for you**



Indeed, all of you should defer to one another and wear the “clothing” of humility in serving each other. ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble’. **1 Peter 5:5b**

*So, humble yourselves
under God's strong hand,
and in his own good time
he will lift you up. You can
throw the whole weight of
your anxieties upon him,
for you are his personal
concern.*

1 Peter 5:6-7

Giving Hope...Our Story

- *We are surrounded by lonely, fearful people.*
- *We can feel superior... or...*
- *We can befriend them...*

Even if a man should be detected in some sin, my brothers, the spiritual ones among you should quietly set him back on the right path, not with any feeling of superiority but being yourselves on guard against temptation. Galatians 6:1

***Carry each other's burdens
and so live out the
“law of Christ.”***

Galatians 6:2

***This is my commandment:
that you love each other
even as I have loved you.
There is no greater love
than this—that a man
should lay down his life for
his friends.***

John 15:12-13

Life happens

FEAR

Control

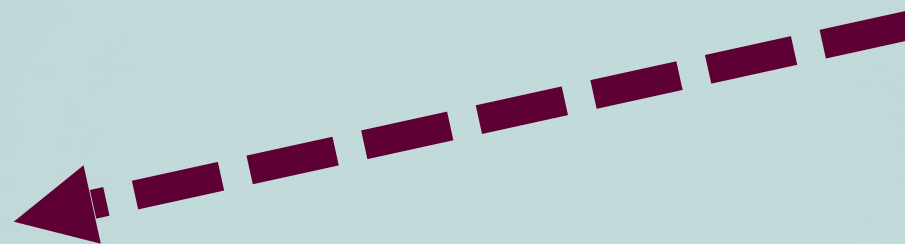
Stress

**Giving
Thanks**

Faith

LOVE

**Surrender to Jesus'
desires for you**



Giving Thanks...

NOTE #1

- Thank a friend...

NOTE #2

- Thank God for that friend...

Fighting Fear...

I arise today

*Through a mighty strength,
the invocation of the Trinity,
Through belief in the Threeness,
Through confession of the
Oneness
of the Creator of creation.*

*I arise today, through
God's strength to pilot me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,*

*God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's shield to protect me,
God's army to save me.*

I arise today

***Through the strength of
Christ's birth with His
baptism,***

***Through the strength of His
crucifixion with His burial,***

***Through the strength of His
resurrection with His
ascension,***

***Through the strength of His
descent for the judgment of
doom.***

***Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,***

***Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every
man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of
everyone who speaks of me,***

***Christ in every eye
that sees me,
Christ in every ear
that hears me.***

Amen.

