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Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2011 3:36 PM
To: 'Ex Sakerettes USA'; EX-SakerUSA@yahoogroups.com
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Subject: [exsa_usa] WHY JUDAS NO GET NAMESAKE EH??

The world is full and overflowing with people bearing Biblical (or “Christian”) names; from the “common” JOHN & MARY, to the more “far-fetched” ISSACHAR, ZEBULON, and ABEDNEGO. There are even people – mostly of Hispanic descent, with the name “JESUS”! However, the one name no one in their right mind seems to want to give their precious bundle of joy is “JUDAS” – as in JUDAS ISCARIOT. (My bet is, we would rather go with “SHOKOLOKOBANGOSHAY”, and my suspicion is that “dem go drive you wit cane” if you showed up at some “Préfecture” and tried to make an “Acte de Naissance” with that MBAHLOCK name!) Well, I have given myself the task today, of figuring out exactly why this is so; “aft’rall” (after all), woosai ah fit carry mah back foot dey go dis afternoon wey snow don lock all man for inside house?! I know the Primary School song “**MOSES IN DEH BURNING BUSH**” goes on to provide some kind of a reason with the line that states: “**JUDAS SELL HIS MASTER 1 POUND 10**”. (I am still not quite sure, after all these years, what exactly the conclusion of the song: “**MASSA JESUS CHRIST TURNED WATA INTO WINE**” has to do with the two previously mentioned events, nor am I sure whether the 30 pieces of silver = 1 pound 10 conversion rate is accurate but I am just not going to go there today me!)

Alright, JUDAS betrayed JESUS – for a miserly 30 pieces of silver, and that was certainly a **DESPICABLE**, actually an **EGREGIOUS** thing to do, so no one – **INCLUDING ME**, wants to name even their pet Wall Gecko, Skunk or Rabbit after him. Okay, so we are not keen on naming our children after a **TRAITOR**; Ah ‘gree; ah understand **BUT THEN**: Why do we gladly name our kids

- “**DAVID**”, after an adulterer and murderer who was not even able to maintain peace within his own (extremely dysfunctional) household?
- “**MOSES**”, a murderer as well, whose defiance of God’s order to speak to a rock instead of strike it cost him his “Laissez-Passer” into a land that he had wandered a good 40 years in the desert to get to?
- “**JACOB**”, a “propah” 419 con artist who tricked his blind and dying father and stole his brother’s birthright?
- “**THOMAS**” who is well known for doubting his Master?
- “**PAUL**”, who persecuted Jesus followers and even stood by watching the cloaks of those who stoned Stephen (the first Christian Martyr) to death?
- “**MARIE-MADELEINE**”, who was quite an “Ashawo”? OR, PARTICULARLY

- “**PETER**” who DENIED the same Jesus that Judas betrayed, no be ONE time, no be TWO time, but THREE GOOD TIMES???!!!

I believe the reason is embedded in these two very simple verses of scripture:

- **Matthew 27:5**

Then Judas threw the silver coins down in the Temple **and went out and hanged himself.**

And:

- **Matthew 26:75**

And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” **And he went out and wept bitterly.**

Na so me ah see me de whole mattah: BOTH disciples did wrong; they both wronged their Master BUT the difference lies in what they did **AFTER** they failed Him. One took his own life (a definite no-no according to The Good Book - as well as in most of our traditions), while the other wept with remorse, and went on to become **THE ROCK UPON WHICH JESUS BUILT HIS CHURCH** – the very one Roman Catholics consider THE FIRST POPE! WHAT A CONTRAST! So what’s my point? That, it really isn’t the things we do wrong that are the issue! They are really not what define us – especially in God’s eyes. It is what we do “**after the fact**” that counts! That is why I love Reverend Donnie McClurkin’s definition of a **SAINT** in his famous “**WE FALL DOWN, BUT WE GET UP**” anthem. He says:

“FOR A SAINT IS JUST A SINNER WHO FELL DOWN AND GOT UP”!

I couldn’t agree more!

- DAVID’s deep and sincere remorse produced the BEAUTIFUL Psalms we have today, whose words so many of us can relate to, because bettah no dey for we either!

- PAUL did the most astonishing 180 degree turn I have ever seen, going from “The Persecutor” to “The Persecuted” for the same cause!

- MARY MAGDALENE abandoned her wayward ways and she was one of the few brave women who, while the man pikin disciples covered in fear behind bolted doors that first Easter Sunday Morning, wore her kaba, tied her head tie and carried her ngong-ngong of spices to go embalm Jesus’ body.

For me, the application from all of these “about turn” stories goes beyond just our spiritual lives into our everyday lives. The “**IF AT FIRST YOU DON’T SUCCEED; TRY, TRY, TRY AGAIN**” thing we were taught in our primary school days is as true now as it was then! I know it is often said that it is the **FIRST** impression that counts. I am more inclined to believe that the **LAST** impression counts even more! How you **FINISH** the race of life matters more than how

you **START** it in my opinion. Even in JESUS' case, **BETHLEHEM**, His earthly beginning, is certainly important, but you would have to be a very strange Christian not to realize that **CALVARY** or **GOLGATHA** is where, IN HIS OWN WORDS, ("IT IS FINISHED"), His Mission was accomplished!

Ah no dey stay me for Philadelphia but the Football Team I have supported all season long until their Super Bowl dreams came to an unfortunate end last Sunday is The Philadelphia Eagles! Why? For seka their quarter back, **MICHAEL VICK**! Yes, the dog fighting and prison are part of his record but I applaud the fact that he still found the strength to put all of that behind him – in fact, use it as a **CATALYST**, as **MOTIVATION** to get back on that turf and deliver AN **AMAZING SEASON** for his team and for himself – and for all who think It's all over when it ain't! In my book, if you still have a pulse, then it ain't over Baby!

My word of **ENCOURAGEMENT** then, at the beginning of another **NEW YEAR** would be that we all dust ourselves up, bandage whatever wounds and bruises we got from the last century's, 2010's or just yesterday's failures, and **FORGE AHEAD**, determined to make our latter days more fruitful than our former! 2011 just might be the year you build or complete that house or project back home, get that degree (so what if you be take lass the last time), find Mr. Right at 60, pluck up the courage to ditch, dump or kick Mr. Wrong to the curb – or finally crawl your way out from under his tyrannical fist before e loss yah one eye wey remain, "born" or **ADOPT** twins, or keep the triplets you already have out of jail! All of these things are in God's Hands and will happen by HIS "NGINYA" (as in **PAWA**) for sure, but I am pretty certain that His plan for your life no go fit happen if you remain only inside yah bedroom wit yah nightie dey cry **NGEUH & NDON** from morning to night over spilt milk – as in "milik" wey e be don sawah even before e be wan troway siiiince, sotey even de **FBI**, de **CIA** and de **MOSSAD** (the renowned and highly sophisticated Israeli Secret Service) **ALL TOGEHDA**, dem no fit detect de slightest trace ahgain!

E DO SO OH, MAMMIE! E CORRECT SO, SISTAH! GET BACK UP AGAIN & GET MOVING BABY!

BLESSINGS!

Egbe Mbiwan Monjimbo

(About to finish one whole bottle of Horlicks on this Snow Day #2!)