

The Man Who Is God

“The Betrayers Kiss”

VPB 03/04/12

Mt. 26:46-56 & John 18:1-11

(Also Luke and Mark’s accounts)

Betrayer = to deliver into the hands of an enemy in violation of a trust or allegiance, to be false or disloyal, to divulge in a breach of confidence (reveal a secret). (Synonymous with the word deceive).

One who betrays is especially devious in that they come on as a friend. They show a face of friendship or loyalty while all the time they are anything but. The betrayer is one who plots and puts into actions treasonous plans while all the time acting as one who is trustworthy and dependable.

A betrayer is one who is a deceiver, pretender, impersonator, and imposter. One who lives a lie and a falsehood. One who plots and waits for the right time to implement their plan when it is suitable and when it benefits them.

A betrayer waits until a time of weakness or confusion to take their action and accomplish their plan. This opportune time gives them an advantage against their victim.

Here in this drama on this very dark night the betrayer if you will enters the stage and assumes his role.

Note: We’re not going to go into the OT prophecies of the betrayer. We will be looking at the person Judas as he is described in the NT. How Jesus described him and how the writers, in retrospect, wrote about him.

Judas Iscariot was not unlike the Pharisees and the religious leaders who came out to arrest Jesus. The same motivations can be said of him that was said of them.

But Judas stands in a different light from the Pharisees in that he was part of the Lord’s inner circle. He was one of the chosen twelve. And by being so he was able to see all that Jesus did and take part in all His teachings even the private times that even we’re not allowed to see.

In Matt. 12:5 we see that Judas was one of the twelve that were sent out to preach to the lost sheep of Israel.

The Jews, the Chief Priests, and the Pharisees were looking for an inside way to take Jesus and they were looking for an accomplice and no better one could be found than Judas Iscariot.

Who is Judas who has been labeled forever as a traitor and a betrayer?

Judas is from the name Judah = “he shall be praised”. So it wasn’t a bad name in that time as it has been since. No one today would even name a dog Judas.

Well first he was one of the chosen disciples. Jn. 6:70 – Jesus says, “Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?”

Devil (dee-ab’-ol-os) = Slanderous, false accuser, one who opposes the cause of God, one who acts with or sides with the devil.

Root = To throw over, to expose, shame, or blame by means of a lie.

What did God have to do to make Judas a betrayer? Nothing!

What did He have to do to you to make you a sinner? Nothing!

What did He have to do to Adam and Eve to make them disobey? Nothing!

What did you have to do to make your children lie? Nothing!

Secondly Judas was a thief. Jn. 12:6 at the event of the fine perfume that was used to anoint the feet of Jesus, Judas said this:

“Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” And John tells us this: “Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.”

Jealousy, greed, disappointment, realization of unachievable goals,

It’s a terrible thing when people who are supposed to belong to Christ end up being betrayers of Him to the world.

I don’t mean like Judas did in betraying Him to death maybe but many times believers can betray their Lord. I would imagine if we all examined our hearts we would find times of betrayal and denial (like Peter) in our lives.

You say now wait a minute I’ve never betrayed my Lord! O really? Has there ever been a time when you had the opportunity to stand up for your Lord but kept silent?

What we have here is an act of betrayal motivated by jealousy, greed, and self-interest. An act performed by one man who had been with Jesus from the beginning but who had actually never been with Jesus at all.

He was a pretender, a fake, one who cared only for his own self and valued not the Gospel or Jesus Himself.

He looked like the real thing but inside he was not. He tagged along with Jesus thinking that he would be maybe someone famous (little did he know), or that he would find great standing in the world, or that he would become a great leader of some kind in the kingdom.

But like the Pharisees who plotted against Jesus once Judas found out that this wasn't going where he wanted it to he began to plot a way out of it.

Isn't that so typical of those who come to church make a profession and then sit back and wait for all the good things that are expected to come? And when they don't they become disillusioned and finally fall away and look back saying "that was a waste of time".

So here we have Judas. Never caring but only for himself.

Jesus referred to him as the "son of perdition" in John 17:12

Perdition = destroying, utter destruction of which consists of eternal misery in hell.

Jn. 17:12 – "While I was with them I was keeping them in Your Name which You have given Me. I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scriptures would be fulfilled."

Now this brings up another question and mostly by the "free will" crowd. "If God sovereignly brought Judas into the world, for this purpose, then that's not fair because he didn't have a chance."

You know what's not fair? It's not fair that anyone is spared the wrath of God!

If God sent you to hell today would He be just and righteous in doing so?

When Jesus lamented over Jerusalem in that profound statement revealing the truth about the depravity of the human heart what did He say?

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem the city that kills the prophets and stone those sent to her. How often I wanted to gather your children together just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, BUT YOU WOULD NOT HAVE IT." (NAS)

Why did Judas do what he did? Because he wanted to.

Why did he not repent? Because he didn't want to.

Judas even thought that he had Jesus fooled.

In Mt. 26:20-25 this is plainly on display along with Judas' hypocrisy. (Go to Mt. 26 and set the scene)

This is the scene at the table after Jesus revealed that one of the disciples would betray Him.

See Mt. 26:20-25 Lord = Master, Lord, Owner. A title of honor and respect given to God and the Messiah.

Judas word in vs. 25: Rabbi – honorable sir

You see he didn't even use the same term as the other guys.

And on top of everything else he's a hypocrite. Because he's asking in jest "surely it is not I, Rabbi?"

When he had already agreed with the Chief Priests to betray Him.

A liar, deceiver, pretender, thief, and hypocrite (an actor).

After this incident Jesus dipped the morsel and gave it to Judas and sent him out to "do what you do quickly".

Note: This grieved the heart of Jesus and every one of the Gospel writers state this. The betrayal of Judas only added to the already mountainous sufferings that our Lord was enduring. Think not that it gave Jesus any pleasure that Judas betrayed Him.

So Judas went out, and it was night.

So here he is on one of the darkest nights in history leading a band to betray Jesus and give Him over to them.

THE BETRAYAL

So Judas has agreed with the Chief Priests and others to identify Jesus to them and now they proceed to get Him. Now the Scriptures say that he was with a Cohort of soldiers which consisted of between 400 – 600 men.

The Cohort would also include a number of Jewish leaders, temple guards, as well as many onlookers that would have tagged along with them to see what was happening.

Note: There could not have been a disbursement of so many Roman soldiers without probably the approval of Pontius Pilate himself. So Pilate could have already been aware of what was taking place the night before he would sit in judgment of Jesus.

Now the arrival at the garden is probably the second place that they looked for Jesus. Remember when Judas left the Lord and the other disciples they were still in the upper room so it is very likely that he thought that they were still there. Not finding them the second and most likely place that He would be was at the garden.

John tells us that Judas knew the place because he had been there many times with Jesus.

So there he found Him and this great crowd with soldiers, guards, Priests, Pharisees, and many onlookers arrive at the garden and then Judas confronts Jesus.

Note: This would be immediately at the time that Jesus has awaked the disciples as they were sleeping while He was praying.

Matt 26:48-50 describes the confrontation. (Go there and expound)

V. 48 – “he who was betraying Him.” (KJV=“he that betrayed Him”)

The rendering “who was” indicates a continual act. IOW this was not a spur of the moment thing but one that had been well planned out in detail.

(See vs. 14-16) This event was planned out prior to the supper in the upper room.

See on in v.48 that he had told them “Whomever I kiss, He is the one seize Him.”

A cold and calculated well planned event that was motivated by jealousy, envy, and greed. From the heart of a man who had never cared in the least about Jesus, His message, or His ministry. Whatever expectations he had were never realized and that created a heart of hate toward Jesus.

What else is in the heart of a betrayer other than hate? Especially considering when, along with the deed, the outcome is also expected and the price of betrayal is considered sufficient for the act.

Remember this is one in whom Satan is at work. (Jn. 13:27)

Beloved this is not a Christian who has fallen into sin. (Expound)

The Betrayers Kiss:

Kiss (In Matthew) = kat-af-ee-leh'-o = to kiss much, kiss again and again, kiss tenderly

Luke's account uses the word (fil'-ay-mah) = a kiss of affection, and kissing repeatedly.

Used 6 times in the NT. Used to describe the unceasing kisses of the woman in Luke 7:45.

So this was not just a “peck” on the cheek but a number of kisses that covered both cheeks of Jesus. The pretended affection of the betrayer to Jesus.

****Note:** John does not mention the kiss. Luke only indicates that it is the sign that Judas will identify Jesus with. Only Matthew and Mark actually describe the actual physical kiss.

And notice one other thing: Luke's account tells us that as the crowd approached Jesus that Judas was "preceding" them to the place where Jesus was.

The Romans and the Jewish leaders gave Judas the place of authority in the front of the procession or even quite a ways in advance of it. In battle that is the place for the general or captain of the brigade to lead into the battle.

You know, the world will allow a betrayer of Jesus anything they want as long as it ends up destroying the Lord or causing shame or disgrace to His name.

And afterward when they are through with you there is no longer any regard for you or your noble stand.

THE AFTERMATH:

Because in Mt. 27 when Judas "came to himself" they cared nothing for him then. They had what they wanted from him. And his regret was no concern to them.

Be careful how we make friends with the Christ hating world. For after they're finished there is no concern about the impact or effect of our sin.

Judas later felt regret for what he had done. He gave back the money and even confessed that he had sinned against innocent blood.

You know sins always uglier the day after. And the world will go along with you as long as it can use you.

We need to be cautious how we represent Christ to the world!

Judas knew he has sinned, he confessed that he has sinned, but he took the wrong course of action because of it.

Why? Because he was not genuine to begin with.

How about you? Are you genuine?

Do you know Jesus really in your heart?

Seek Him!

Amen.

Walter E. Swain Sr.