



The Betrayal

By Ken Terry January 17, 2024

TODAY'S READING: Matthew 27

Today's reading has all the drama and suspense of a major motion picture. Our passage recounts the evil that surrounded our Lord's earthly demise. One event that really stands out to me is Judas' betrayal. It baffles me how someone could live with God in the flesh, see the miracles, signs, and wonders, and still turn his back on God? How could this intimate friend/brethren/disciple, whom Jesus loved and called His very own, betray Him. This same individual was given the Holy Spirit of God, then granted the supernatural abilities and privileges to heal the sick and cast demons from the people. *"And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease"* (Matthew 10:1, NKJV).

How can someone with all these divine qualities throw it all away? That is as an excellent question, my friends. My answer would be: due to the corruption of sin, the need for prominence, and pride in one's own mind. Does that sound familiar? How many of us seek our own needs, passions, and desires, then consciously allow our spiritual needs to become secondary? For some they become a fleeting thought that is rarely revisited. That may not sound as bad as selling Christ for 30 pieces of silver. However, it is denying Him and turning your back on Him in the same manner. You see, all who follow Christ have been imparted with His Holy Spirit and given distinct divine qualities. Are we utilizing them for building up the Body of Christ and for the purposes of God's kingdom? We are so quick to condemn Judas as the betrayer and Pilate as the one who condemned Jesus, but if we do not follow and abide in Jesus, are we any different than they?

My friends, let us not take the road to perdition by following this world with its sinful passions and desires. In doing so, we will inadvertently be denying Christ and denouncing all that we have learned from His teachings. We will come to the same level of consciousness as Judas. *"Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood..." (Matthew 27:3,4).*

Therefore, let us walk in the manner in which we have been called--in a godly manner by which we magnify the name of Jesus through our words, actions, and behaviors. This will enable us to glorify the Father with Him. This is our acceptable and reasonable service that pleases God.

PRAYER: Our Father in heaven, Jehovah God, we thank You for Jesus. Father, we thank You for Your love exhibited through Him, that selfless sacrificial act of love exhibited in our reading today. Father, give us strength, determination, and the commitment to love, serve and obey You and follow the teachings of Jesus in all we do. We need You, Father, to endure all the pitfalls and trials that this life puts before us. We ask all these things in the mighty name of Jesus, amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: John 20

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