

MARK 14:41-52 "JUDAS KISS"



In the greatest display of obedience that will ever be known, Jesus took the full chalice of **man's sin** and **God's wrath**, looked, **trembling**, deep into it's depth, and in a steel act of His will drank it all!

Oh Yes, dear church God demonstrated His love for us in while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. **ROMANS 5 VERSE 8**

Peter, who fell asleep three times, went on to deny his Lord by that same number – **hardly a poetic coincidence!** But all was not lost. **Remember dearest loved of God Jesus' love and restoration is greater than your failure.** Their scandal was to become their salvation because in the years to come all learned to **steel their lives in prayer**. Peter and James died martyrs' deaths, and John was a man of steel who endured to the end. **The lessons are here if we wish to see them.**

STRENGTH IS WHAT PRAYER PROVIDES, and that is what Gethsemane teaches. Jesus prayed when the flesh reared it's ugly head. And though he sweat drops of blood, he stood firm and did the will of the Father **while prayerless Peter slept.**

THE APPLICATION IS SIMPLY THIS: all of us should give ourselves to regular, daily prayer. If you are not living a life of dependent prayer, you will fall. You cannot and will not have the steel necessary to follow Christ. **AN ADDITIONAL THOUGHT** Through prayer and companionship, we must stand beside others in their time of need.

PRAY

- The first Adam began life in a garden. Christ, the second Adam, came at the end of his life to a garden.
- In Eden Adam sinned. In Gethsemane the Savior overcame sin.
- In Eden Adam fell. In Gethsemane Jesus conquered.
- In Eden Adam hid himself. In Gethsemane our Lord boldly presented Himself.
- In Eden the word was drawn. In Gethsemane it was sheathed.

Mark 14:41 Then He came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough! The hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

One author writes... The trees in this garden look as though they have grown out of some silent pain deep within the earth, much like hands crippled with arthritis reaching out of the earth. **These trees are old and they have seen many injustices in their lives...** tonight would be the worst.

Nothing Church... I repeat nothing that is to happen tonight will happen by the will of man, but all will occur by the will of God. **At any moment Jesus could have stopped it,** but this cup was not to pass for this was the only way to save you and I. **His hour had come!**

Sounds of a mob enter the ears of Jesus and His disciples. Torches bobbing up and down in the distance with puffs of black smoke shooting into the sky.

THIS IS A MILITARY MOB... a detachment of soldiers used as a peace keeping force from the tower of Antonia. **600 men... a tour de force THE IRONY!!!** 600 men coming to arrest the one who with a mere whisper could deploy thousands of angels. In 2 Kings the angel of the Lord killed 185,000 Assyrians. **They are coming with hand crafted swords and clubs for the one who forged the stars.**

Strategically they come at night, away from the crowds, they didn't want a riot to break out at the arrest of this man who healed the sick, cleansed lepers and brought sight to the blind.

Middle of a spring night and probably crisp and clear for John mentions in his gospel **it was cold**

Mark 14:42 Rise, Jesus could rise up because He had already knelt down. He could stand up because He already had bowed down. Jesus found strength for this moment because of the time He had spent in prayer. Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand." **Judas arranged to sell the Savior to the authorities at a time when he could be taken alone and there would be no chance of riot.**

Now the consummation of Judas' diabolical scheming.

His motivation, according to Scripture, was **naked greed**, for according to John 12:5-6 he was a thief who had been **plundering** the common purse.

John in his gospel includes a glorious happening at this point...

John 18:4-6 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?" 5 They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, **"I AM He."** And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. 6 Now when He said to them, **"I AM He."** they drew back and fell to the ground.

I do not agree with those who say the mob fell to the ground as a result of Jesus' "moral force." The Roman soldiers knew nothing of Jesus and had no reason to fear or even respect him.

"I AM" Clear pronouncement of **DEITY**, using the divine predicate, **"I AM"**

[Reminding them He will GIVE His life, they will not TAKE it. **I'm still in charge.**]

John in his gospel continues in verse 7 Then He asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?" And they said, **Maybe with a little more reverence... uhhh** "Jesus of Nazareth." 8 Jesus answered, "I have told you that **"I AM"** He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way," **No doubt the 600 soldiers did not come just to arrest Jesus but to arrest them all. That was not according to God's plan... so maybe a little show of power to influence them to just take Him.**

Back to Mark's gospel verse 43 And immediately, while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. **3 and 1/2 years with Jesus, SAW, TASTED, He had seen it all... standing with the enemy... such betrayal. Scary** thought that people can frequent the house of God, go to church, listen to the studies, say they believe and yet find themselves standing with the enemies of God.

44 Now His betrayer had given them a signal, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead *Him* away safely." **Apparently, Jesus was normal enough in appearance so that it was necessary that Judas specifically identify Him for the sake of those arresting Jesus, and he chose to identify Jesus by greeting**

Him with a kiss. The darkness in the garden that night was not only physical but spiritual. Just to make sure you get the right guy... I'll lay a kiss on him.

THE KISS... The Garden of Gethsemane... place of crushing. This is where the infamous kiss took place.

The infamy is in the this: the word used for kiss here is not the usual word (phileo), but an intensive form (kataphileo), which the Greek lexicon defines as “*to kiss fervently, kiss affectionately*”. The careful scholar Cranford sees it as a prolonged kiss. It is the kind of kiss you give to one very much loved.

Judas was a **deicide** (a god killer) and a **suicide**.

I do not think there is anything in all the annals of treachery more contemptuous than this kiss of Judas' -- a deliberate, prolonged, apparently loving act, done with cold determination to accomplish his own purpose.

Judas kiss by Petra Album: *More Power to Ya* 1982

I wonder how it makes you feel when the prodigal won't come home
I wonder how it makes you feel when he'd rather be on his own
I wonder what it's like for you when a lamb has gone astray
I wonder what it's like for you when your children disobey

It must be like another thorn struck in your brow
It must be like another close friend's broken vow
It must be like another nail right through your wrist
It must be just like... Just like Judas' kiss

I wonder how it makes you feel when no one seeks your face
I wonder how it makes you feel when they give up in the race
I wonder what it's like for you when they willingly disobey
I wonder what it's like for you when they willingly walk away

45 As soon as he had come, immediately he went up to Him and said to Him, “Rabbi, Rabbi!” and kissed Him.

Prophetic betrayal expressed by King David Psalm 55:12-14 For it is not an enemy who reproaches me; Then I could bear it. Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me; Then I could hide from him. 13 But it was

you, a man my equal, My companion and my acquaintance. 14 We took sweet counsel together, And walked to the house of God in the throng.

Judas' infamous kiss showed how low a human heart can go.

Jesus' response was just the opposite, for it showed how high a heart can soar.

My heart... "Your lips are sown shut"

Jesus did not just say, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you (Matthew 5:44) – he lived it!

According to Jewish mindset you don't believe something if you don't live it.

Jesus commands us to **NOT** live by the *Lex (Law) Talionis (retaliation)* **The Law of retaliation.** Eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. It's one-up-man-ship. Jesus says **love goes the opposite direction.** It shows mercy, rather than demands justice. When we're attacked, **RETALIATE IN LOVE. HERE IN THE GARDEN JESUS DOES JUST THAT.. HE RETALIATES IN LOVE**

Returning evil for good... sociopath... evil

Returning good for good... normal... expected

Returning good for evil... LIKE CHRIST!!! Christian

HUMAN NATURE... you take my eye, I take both of yours. You take both of mine I take your legs and eyes... **I KILL YOUR WHOLE FAMILY!!!**

Jesus teaches us that "The more mercy I show the more mercy I will know."

Have you ever been betrayed? Do we feel that you are entitled to hatred: **Jesus says we are not!** This is **Not** how Kingdom citizens live... they give up their right to get even and **return love.**

46 Then they laid their hands on Him and took Him. **47** And one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, and

cut off his ear.

Can you imagine, the ringing sound of 600 swords being unsheathed ... they could have killed them all right there.

We know from John 18:10 that the one who smote the servant of the high priest was Peter. Peter being the one who is relaying the happenings of this event probably asked Mark not to include this “most embarrassing” moment of Peter.

So now I guess it was more than Peter could bear to see Judas, his comrade, his companion, keeper of the ministry money betray their Master with a kiss.

Added to his failure of sleeping on his watch... **TIME TO MAKE UP FOR BAD BEHAVIOR AND DO SOMETHING!**

Peter's blundering sword... Hey I was a fisherman! **What a beautiful example of the flesh at work!**

LUKE TELLS US THAT JESUS HEALED THE DAMAGE DONE BY PETER (LUKE 22:51). **Barclay makes an often missed point** "Had Jesus not healed Malchus, Peter would have been arrested as well; and there might have been 4 crosses at Calvary."



Rather than take up the sword to fight... Jesus calls His followers to take up a towel and serve. *Amazing isn't it... something as small as a servant's ear was not overlooked on His way to redeeming the world.*

Ironically, Jesus' last miracle was to heal a wound inflicted by His own disciple. Sadly, over the history of the Church, **He's had to repeat that miracle many times.** How busy we keep our Lord, putting on ears that we cut off. Peter probably would have had a difficult time leading Malchus to become a Christian.

Matthew 26:52-53 ... But Jesus said to him, “Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. 53 Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?”

*Matthew inserts the truth about the power of Jesus... by reminding Peter that all He has to do is ask and **12 legions** of angels would immediately appear.*

*5120 in a Roman legion... not sure how many in a angel legion but if that is the case than Jesus was saying, "Peter, this is not the way... the sword... no I could call down 61,440 angels right now. Oh and one can take out over 185,000 men. They could deal with 11 billion 366 million 400 thousand men. **PETER, I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP** and besides it's not the sword we need it's the towel.*

Again, Dr. Luke is the only gospel writer to document the healing. Maybe to the others the miracle seemed minuscule in light of the tragedy being enacted before them. After all what consequence is the ear of a servant when the Savior of the world's life is at stake.

48 Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? **49** I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled."

As one writer notes... He went forth **resolutely** to meet his end. He received the terrible kiss of betrayal, and responded with love. He submitted to the arrest of the mob. He refused the exercise of natural strength. He depended upon the Father and his angels. He did it alone.

50 Then they all forsook Him and fled. *At this point, all the disciples scattered, and ran for their own safety. A few (Peter and John, at least) followed back to see what would happen at a distance. None of them stood beside Jesus and said, "I have given my life to this Man. What you accuse Him of, you may accuse me of also." Instead, it was fulfilled what Jesus said: All of you will be made to stumble because of Me (Mark 14:27).*

51 Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around *his* naked body. And the young men laid hold of him, **52** and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked. **I didn't read one commentator or theologian that didn't agree that this young man was none other than Mark himself.** A new Testament stalker!

Many people suppose that the upper room where Jesus held the last supper just a few hours earlier was at a home owned by Mark's family. Acts 12:12 says that the disciples used to meet at the home of Mark's mother. **It may be that the arresting army led by Judas first came to Mark's home,** because that is where

Judas last left Jesus. When Judas and the group came and found them gone, it would have been easy for Judas to suppose that they went to Gethsemane, because Jesus was accustomed to going there (Luke 22:39). When the Judas and the group started out for Gethsemane, we can imagine that young Mark hurriedly dressed in a simple **linen cloth** and set out to beat Judas and his gang to Gethsemane so he could warn Jesus.

Hughes... Poor Mark was almost grabbed by the mob, escaping au naturel in the night. But while there is much that can be said about John Mark, his point is simply this: Jesus was absolutely alone as he submitted himself to the Cross.

Amazing love... Jesus was the ultimate giver...

To His Father, He gave His obedience

To His disciples, He gave a plea for their escape

To His betrayer, He gave a kind word

To His enemy, He gave healing

To His captors, He gave His life

Prayer... Jesus we want to be like you... We are so far from it in so many ways... help us Lord to confront life the way you did in this garden the night of your betrayal.

When someone betrays me, give me such a forgiving heart that I would offer a kind word in exchange for a deceitful kiss.

When danger surrounds me, give me such faithfulness for my friends that I would think of their welfare before my own.

When an army of opposition mounts against me, give me the courage to stand alone.

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