

Third Sunday in Lent - March 7, 2010

Text: Matthew 26:47-50; 1 Corinthians 10:12; Mark 8:36-37; Luke 12:15; Romans 14:17; 1 John 1:6-8

Message: "What Shall I Do with Jesus?" **BETRAY HIM?**

1. On the list of the most popular baby names I didn't find _____ as one of the favorites...Why? Probably because there are few people who don't know about Judas Iscariot, remembered as Jesus' betrayer and looked upon with contempt.
2. What gives us the right to set ourselves up as _____ of this man as if we would never do such a thing? Let's ask ourselves this question: **Could I Betray Jesus?**

Our Lord wants you and me to remember...

† **We are all capable of betraying _____.**

3. Where did Judas go _____ that he would actually betray, for 30 pieces of silver, his Lord and Savior? There can be really only three reasons:
 - _____! *Judas loved money more than he loved Jesus!*
 - It may have been because of bitter _____ because Jesus was not the Christ Judas wished He would be.
 - It may be that Judas never intended Jesus to _____, and the betrayal was his way of forcing Jesus to act and exert His power that Judas knew Jesus had.
4. Judas' fall was _____. Satan tempted him and worked on him and pulled him away from the Savior one small step at a time until he was on sin's slippery slope of no return.
5. But the sad story of Judas' life has an even sadder turn, a tragic _____. With nowhere to go, with no one to take away his burden of guilt or offer him any hope, Judas could think of only one solution. "*He went away and hanged himself;*" the Bible says in Matthew 27:5.
6. **The tragedy of Judas is that...**
 - **He _____ to accept Jesus as He was and tried to make Jesus what he wanted Him to be** – It is not Jesus who can be changed by us, but rather, we who must be changed by Jesus.
 - **He thought he knew better than God** – We are not to manipulate and use Jesus for our purposes; we are to submit to be used for His.
 - **It's a tragedy replayed since the beginning of time...a tragedy begun in the garden but one now repeated in our world, country, neighborhood, church, home, family, and personal life.**

"If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!" 1 Corinthians 10:12

Our Lord wants you and me to remember...

† **We are all capable of betraying Jesus.**

† **It is only by grace, through faith in Christ that we receive the _____ to stand firm...to stay...to pray and not betray.**

7. Judas did, and so can we hide our _____ from others, but there is One who sees, hears, and knows all...all about us. **When Jesus seeks to stop Judas or you or me from sinning, He never forces our choices or coerces, manipulates or controls our free will...He confronts us with our sin and with Him!**
8. By far, **the worse sin is the calculated, callous sin of conscious _____** – sin on which I deliberate, that is purposely planned, which in cold blood knows what it is doing, which is confronted by Jesus and His love, but yet still follows through with its evil, sinful plans.
† **We cannot turn back the hands of time and undo the sin that has been done.**
† **The things we think we gain through our sinning often become the very things we end up losing, hating, or despising.**
- Sin hardens your heart, paving the way to stray and betray! The result...
Sin takes you farther than you want to go...Keeps you longer than you want to stay...
Costs you more than you want to pay.*
9. If Judas had _____ of his sins and looked to Jesus for forgiveness, he could have experienced hope to cope with his guilt and remorse. When Jesus carried His cross to Calvary, He was carrying on Himself the sins of the entire world, Judas' greed and sin of betrayal, our conceit and self-righteous pride and everything else by which we offend our God. He did this so that we might experience peace with God, be His children, serve Him in our lives, and live with Him forever.
10. Remember that **Christ's power to stand firm...to stay...to pray and not _____** is available to all of us, not because of our goodness and because of what we have done, but because of what Christ has done and won for us.

† † † **LESSON FROM GOD'S WORD** † † †

Matthew 26:47-50; 1 Corinthians 10:12; Mark 8:36-37; Luke 12:15; Romans 14:17; 1 John 1:6-8
Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. {46} Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!" {47} While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. {48} Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." {49} Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. {50} Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for." Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. Matthew 26: 45-50

Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"...So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! Luke 22:48; 1 Corinthians 10:12

What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? {37} Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? Mark 8:36-37

Then he (Jesus) said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions"... For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Luke 12:15; Romans 14:17

If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 1 John 1:6-8

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| 1. Judas | 2. Judges | † Jesus | 3. Wrong Greed Hatred Die | 4. Gradual |
| 5. End | 6. refused power | 7. Sins | 8. Choice | 9. Repented |
| | | | | 10. Betray |