

Title: Denial and Betrayal

appt's

Text: Matthew 26:14-16

Would you turn, please, in your Bibles to the Gospel of Matthew chapter 26. Matthew chapter 26 and beginning with Vs 14 on the subject: DENIAL AND BETRAYAL.....

Matthew 26:14-16; 47-57; 69-75
27: 3-5

Prayer

~~For a few short weeks I will be back~~

~~Denial and betrayal.~~ *important* The story of Peter's denial and Judas's betrayal are *and the same* vital in understanding those events leading up the death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I would like to share these two experiences with you today and make some application to our own lives.

(1) I would like you to notice, first of all, the basic circumstances that were involved in these men's deeds...

(1) In the case of the betrayal of Judas there were basic two things.-

(1) Number one, he made a bargain.

A bargain was made according to Vs 14-16 of chapter 26. A bargain was made with the chief priest involving 30 pieces of silver.

Now, it is ~~very~~ interesting that this betrayal was for 30 pieces of silver. Because in the O.T. in Exodus 21:32 we learn that 30 pieces of silver was the damages paid for the killing of a slave or an ox. And this was according to the law. So, that is what they thought of Jesus. 30 pieces of silver was the bargain that was made.

(2) Secondly, the circumstances that led to Judas' betrayal...A kiss was used to point out Jesus to His enemies.

Now, I believe we should know something at this point. According to history, a kiss was a common social greeting in that day. And it was also, an act of friendship. *But when I says* ~~Also~~, in Matthew 26 verse 49 *that* ~~where it says:~~ "Judas kissed him"....in the original Greek it is "continually kissed him."

In other words: Judas walked up to Jesus and literally showered him with kisses. Now, one kiss on the cheek would have been the common social greeting of the day. But, Judas was even at that moment trying to show Jesus in some way that he really was close to Him. And he was trying to justify in his own heart what he knew he had done. He showed Jesus with kisses. So, these are the basic circumstances involved in Judas's betrayal.

(2) Now, what about Peter? A couple of things here.

(1) First, as you learn from Vs 51 and 52, Peter, in true form, pulls out his sword and cuts off the ear of one of the guards of the High Priest. ~~He~~ ~~cut~~ ~~off~~ ~~his~~ ~~ear~~ and then he is rebuked by Jesus.

So, right way, you should realize that the first circumstance of his denial has been put into motion. Because when they took Jesus to the palace of the High Priest, Peter was in mortal danger. He had already indicated in the garden where he stood in relationship to Jesus Christ. For he had cut off the ear of a guard of the High Priest.

(2) But Peter, also, according to the Bible, followed afar off and he ends up being in the court yard of the Palace. And we are told from archeology that that from the court yard one could see into the place area where the trial of Jesus was taking place. So, Peter could have seen what was happening to Jesus from the court yard...

(3) Now, thirdly, we notice that Peter was challenged three times concerning his association with Jesus. Notice, Peter is in the court yard of the palace of the High Priest. He had already cut off the ear of one of the guards. So, you can imagine Peter's concern and his being on his guard. He is challenged three times about his association with Jesus. ~~And~~ ~~s~~ three times he denies any knowledge of knowing Jesus.

So, those are the basic circumstances involved in the betrayal of Judas and the denial of Peter.

(2) But, what I really want to share with you this morning ~~is this:~~ ^{are} ~~that~~

THE CAUSES BEHIND THESE ACTS OF DENIAL AND BETRAYAL? What were the causes?.....

Put yourself back there in that day. In your mind's eye, make yourself be Judas. Make yourself be Peter. WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE? What were the causes that affected your decision? Why did these men who had walked and lived and followed Jesus for three years betray and deny Him?...WHY?...

Or, to put it another way...Why do we do what we do when we often times deny and betray Jesus? We do this all the time either by our thoughts, or our outward actions. But, what were the causes behind these men's acts?

Remember, Peter turned out to be a great servant of the Lord. Judas hanged himself. But, both men had three years of being with Jesus,

(1) Well, in the case of Judas, I believe there are three reasons why he did what he did.

(1) Number one, from chapter 26, we know that Judas was reacting towards what Mary had done. To understand this you must go back to the first few verses of chapter 26. We discussed these verses a couple of weeks ago. But let me refresh your memory. Notice Matthew 26 verse 6....."

"Now when Jesus was in Bethany, at the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came to Him with an alabaster vial of every costly perfume, and she poured it upon His head as He reclined at table. But the disciples were indignant when they saw this, and said, "What is the point of this waste? This perfume might have been sold for a high price and the money given to the poor."

From the Gospel of John we learn that it was Mary who poured this perfume upon the head of Jesus. Also from John chapter 12 that it was Judas who was the spokesman for the disciples in their complaints against Mary.

So, putting all this together, we know that one of the basic causes as to why Judas betrayed Jesus was his attitude towards what Mary had done.

Notice, Vs 14 and the word "THEN"..."Then"...after Mary had poured the perfume on Jesus....."Then Judas went to the chief priests."

And I would like to say that if our attitude towards what Mary did to Jesus is anything but excitement and thrill at the quality and devotion and love she showed to Jesus, then we are laying the ground work in our own ~~lives~~ lives for betrayal.....

~~Notice Vs 14 and the word "then".... "then".... after Mary had ointed Jesus with the perfume.... "Then" Judas sought opportunity to betray him.~~

~~And I would like to say that if our attitude ^{towards} what Mary did ^{for} Jesus is nothing but excitement and thrill at the quality and devotion ^{and} of love she ^{showed} showed to Jesus, then we are laying the ground work in our own lives for betrayal.~~

There is nothing that I own in this world that doesn't deserve to be sacrificed and broken at the feet of Jesus Christ if I love him as he wants me to love him....

And anything short of a viewpoint that Mary did the most exciting and wonderful thing possible, any thing short of that attitude is laying a ground work for betrayal.

"Then Judas sought opportunity to betray him." ~~So his attitude towards what Mary had done was selfish and self-centered.~~

(2X) Then, secondly, from John 12, we know that Judas was a thief.

You know it is one thing to go ^{down} now to a store and steal something and be called a thief. It is another thing to never having done that in your entire life, yet being a thief in your heart.... There are many people who are thieves in their heart. ~~And~~ And actually the whole idea being expressed is the sin of coveteous. The Bible treats coveteous as thieforay. And many of us express in attitude this principle for we covet many things.

(3C) And this leds to the third thing that ^{was} wrong and caused Judas to betray Jesus. That is, that he loved money. He cared not about the poor. The Bible is clear about that. He didn't care about the poor. He loved his money. He ~~held~~ ^{was} the bag. He was the treasury of the group.

But, I would like to point something out. Every picture that I have ever seen of Judas--it shows him as a sinky man....He sinks out in the middle of the night. He is a kind of person that you wouldn't want to trust, to be your treasurer. [Now, remember these men were fisherman. And Matthew was an Apostle. He was atax collector. And he had dealt with thousands of dollars. POINT: These disciples thought enough of Judas to made him the treasurer of the group. [That leds me to say that Judas could have been anyone of us. Trusted by our peers. Through well of. Trustworthy

He is the man. Men who were well acquainted with money and financial matters choose Judas to be the treasurer of the group. He was respected. And no one would have ever dreamed that Judas would have betrayed Jesus.

No matter how well we might think of our selves, we have no guarantee that we would not betray Jesus Christ. *So, before you point out the log speck in your brother's eyes, see the log in your own eye.*

Now (2B) In contrast, let's look at the case of Peter. What were the causes behind Peter's acts of denial? This comes a little closer to home because Judas hanged himself. He never did come to believe in Christ as God wanted. *Result* But Peter did. God revolutionized Peter's life. So, maybe if we get at the heart of Peter's problem, we will see our own problem... Maybe we will know why we are like the way we are. [Why can't we break out of our shells and live abundantly for Christ and let the spirit of Christ control us and live a life dedicated to Christ? Maybe... because the problems are the same as the ones in Peter's life. Let me share with you six evidences from the Bible that were the causes of Peter's denial.

(1C) First of all, I would like you to turn back to Matthew 16 and begin at vs 21. Matthew 16:21....As far as we know this is the first time that Jesus ever announced to his disciples that he was going to be killed, he was going to be buried, and that he was going to rise from the dead.

(Read 16:21-24)

This is the first indication in the Bible, of Peter's problem. He was thinking on human levels not on the divine. *Thinking as a spiritual man.* This means Peter *was being* controlled by his own material ~~human~~ ~~thoughts~~. He was like the carnal christian that has a selfish ~~view~~ viewpoint. He was not considering the fact that God in human flesh was saying that he had to go to the cross and die. Peter was thinking from a materialist viewpoint of a kingdom being set up *on earth*.

In fact, just a little later you find the disciples arguing about position in the kingdom. Who is going to be the greatest. Surely these who were following Jesus ought to have some place of authority in that kingdom.

They couldn't ^{believe} ~~foresee~~ that Jesus had to die. But he had to die, you see, in order to pay for our sins. ^{So} ~~Peter thought on human thoughts.~~ ^{eyes being controlled by his own will} And ~~many of us do the same thing.~~ ^{That happens to us} We don't think God's thoughts. We are human, we are carnal, we are selfish, and we are setting up a background that might cause us, in an hour of crises, to denie him.

(2C) But there is something else. Come back to Matthew chapter 26 and look at Vs 31-35 we learn something else about Peter. Because in Vs 31, Jesus said to his disciples that they would all fall away because of Him that night. (read 31-35)

So, What was Peter's problem? He was felled with self-confidence. His confidence wasn't in the Lord it was in himself. Thought all may fall away, I will not. He was fully confident of his own strength.

And my friend, if you are trusting your own self-confidence, you are ^{far} ~~far~~ from the Kingdom of God. The Bible says that none of our righteousness is ^{acceptable} ~~excusable~~ in the sight of God. The Bible teaches us that we have no confidence or strength in ourselves... We cannot receive salvation except through faith in Christ. Not through US and what we do...

And yet Peter in this hour, in this moment, realizing that Jesus had made a prophecy that all would fall away, he trusted himself. He said I will never denie you. SELF-CONFIDENCE ^{in self}

(3C) Then, third, if you would come down to Vs 36f, we have the story of Jesus going into the garden to pray. And he ask Peter and John ^{and James} to keep watch while ~~he~~ he prayed. And what happened. (Vs 40 Read)

Notice, ^{to whom} ~~who~~ he said it, to. The Bible said he ask Peter... But Peter James and John were there. But, you see, Jesus dealt with Peter. Because Jesus knew that Peter was going to denie him. He was pointing out to Peter another problem in his life. He was sleeping when he should have been praying. He was ^{NOT} aware of his own weaknesses.

Like many of us, we are sleeping, literally, spiritually. We have just fallen asleep by every day life. We don't see the great need to live for God. and We Become Amplified People

And we have fallen asleep. Jesus says in Vs 41: "the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

and You say, but I want to serve Jesus. I want Christ to come into my life. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. And Peter was laying again the groundwork for his own denial. He was sleeping while he should have been praying.

(U.C) Then, look ~~down~~ in Vs 50. In Vs 50-54 is the story of Peter pulling out the sword and ~~cutting~~ cutting off the guards ear. From one point of view, this is quite a funny story. One thing you can say about Peter. He isn't afraid to take action. He often puts his foot in his mouth. But he does speak out. You must give him credit for that.

Here comes this big ~~ground~~ crowd of people. Vs 47 says a great multitude with swords and clubs and the chief priests has come with the temple police. And there they are a multitude of people with swords and clubs, and Old Peter says: Don't worry Lord, I am here..... *Peter*

But, we learn something from this... PETER TRUSTED IN HIS OWN STRENGTH This is related to self-confidence. You see when you get self-confidence and make the statement: I will never ~~denie~~ *let you down* you are in a corner relying on your own strength.

You know what Peter ~~was~~ really saying: Jesus, don't be afraid, we can set up the kingdom right ~~now~~. Now, is the time to start. Down with the Roman empire. Let's get them.....

You say foolish.... I wonder how many of us would have acted any differently... Many of us probably wouldn't have done a thing. We would have been like the other 11 disciples. They all ran away. That's what the Bible says. Peter, at least spoke up.. But he had a problem. He was trusting in his own strength. ~~Like many of us.~~

That is the problem, ⁱⁿ in our whole Christian experience. That is why God can't use us like he wants to. That is why the power of the Holy Spirit is not producing in us. Why? Because it is all our own strength. *It is all the energy of the flesh. Peter is all at us.*

(5C) There is a fiveth reason. Look at Vs 57 and 58: "They led Jesus away, but Peter followed at a distance." He was afar -off. Peter wasn't close to the Lord. And what was true physical was true spiritually. Like many of us. We are following Jesus from a distance. Oh, yes, I believe in Christ, but we ^{live} a life that speaks differently. We don't live by the truth and principles of God 's Word. And when a crisis hits our life, we are to far away to see the hand of a loving God who cares.

(6C) This leds us into the six reason, that was wrong with Peter. He was afraid of being identified with Jesus when it would cost him something. When he was challenged, he knew in his heart what it meant. If he identified with Jesus, it would have meant his life. And Peter wasn't willing to pay the price.

And are we not like Peter? We may not face physical death. But are we not like him? Every time we leave this comfortable place of being with Christians and we go out into the world and face that person who is not a christian. We are face to face with a person who dinies our Lord and we love him. Do we not fall into Peter's denial when we refuse, by our selence, to share what we are in Christ?.....

Now → The consequences in these two men's lives points ~~them~~ in different ~~ways~~ directions. Judas repented of his betrayal. But it was not the rependence unto salvation. It was ^{not} the rependence of feeling sorrow what he had done. It is like the little boy who disobeys his mother and gets caught. He is sorrow..not for his act of disobedience..but only in the fact that he got caught. That kind of rependence leds only to death. Judas hung himself. Spiritually, it refers to eternal death or separation of God.

But, we need to see the rependence of Peter. The rependence that causes one to bend his knee in obedience to God. The kind of rependence that cries out: "Lord, be merciful to me a sinner." Then, you have opened yourself to a saviour and a woderful relationship with Christ. *and to live a brand new life for Christ*

Vs 75 says it so well: "And Peter remembered the words which Jesus had said." Peter remembered. And what a response. The Bible says that Peter went out and wept bitterly.

A broken man. A man who had seen that all of his self-confidence, all of his strength was just no good. He had done the very thing he said he would never do. He denied his Lord.

But this ^{repentance} was the beginning of a transformation in Peter's life. A few days later, after the resurrection, Jesus met with Peter and asked him:

Peter do you love me more these. Do you really Peter? Peter's life was transformed. *And he went forth as that great Aspidochelone who helped*
learned the world upside down

How much do you really love Jesus? Do you love him enough to permit him to change your life? To transform you into the ^{image} image of his will...Living a life that glorifies God. *How Much Do You Love Jesus?*

Shall we close in Prayer