



Volume 11, No. 4, April, 2023



What Will You Do with Jesus?

*Jesus is standing in Pilate's hall,
Friendless, forsaken, betrayed by all;
Hearken! What meaneth the sudden call?
What will you do with Jesus?*

*Jesus is standing on trial still,
You can be false to Him if you will;
You can be faithful thru good or ill;
What will you do with Jesus?*

*Will you evade Him as Pilate tried,
Or will you choose Him, whate'er betide?
Vainly you struggle from Him to hide,
What will you do with Jesus?*

*"Jesus, I give Thee my heart today!
Jesus, I'll follow Thee all the way,
Gladly obeying Thee!" will you say;
"This will I do with Jesus."*

Refrain:

*What will you do with Jesus my friend?
Neutral you cannot be;
Someday your heart will be asking, O friend,
"What will He do with me?"*

WORDS: Albert Simpson, (written 1897)

MUSIC: Alton Howard (written 1972)



Betrayal

The ultimate betrayal was the one done by Judas to Jesus. That betrayal led to a most cruel death. None of us has suffered that, at least so far. Sometimes when we suffer a betrayal, it can be extremely painful. When we think about it, the betrayal that hurts the most is one committed by a friend. We trust our friends. A friend or co-worker is usually close enough to know our weaknesses and can use them to the maximum harm.

Sometimes a co-worker will undermine someone in a race for a coveted promotion. A friend may become jealous and start a rumor or outright lie to boost their own status in a group. You may share a confidence only to have it spread far and wide. What are we to do?

When I was quite young, a classmate needled me and called me very cruel names, but she was sneaky. Only I ever heard her remarks. I was a quiet introverted child and suffered in silence for quite a long time, but one day my red-head temper snapped. I wrote a long page of anger telling her exactly what I thought of her and gave her some ugly names. Much to my chagrin, she took the note to the teacher, failing to mention her role in the situation. I learned two lessons that day. First, retaliation never produces a positive outcome. Second, a paper trail can be used as evidence. 1 Thessalonians 5:15 tells us, "See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek what is good for one another and for all people."

We are called to love one another. It can become very difficult if the other person is not a Christian. Sometimes that involves suffering in silence. If we respond with kindness, it often shames the betrayer, or at least prompts better behavior. That paper trail of helpful kindness can serve as evidence of a higher calling and prove your conduct, if it is used properly. There may be

a time when there is no satisfactory resolution. We are told vengeance belongs to God, but that does not mean we have to remain in the situation. Sometimes we just need to remove ourselves.

Matthew 18:15-17 tells us how to deal with a brother. We are to go to him and try to resolve the issue. If that does not work, we are to take two or three witnesses to try to resolve it. If that fails, we are to take it to the church. Ideally, that would never be necessary, but Jesus knew human nature and gave us specific instructions on how to cope. Our task is to control our emotions and follow the guidelines.

I Peter 3:8-10 "To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, loving, compassionate, and humble; ⁹ not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you would inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For, "The one who desires life, to love and see good days, must keep his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit."

Wilburta Arrowood, Napoleonville, Louisiana



What Will You do With Jesus?

A boy was having a conversation once at Christmastime with his father.

Father: Why do you suppose the Bible seems to just tell the story of Jesus' birth, but we don't see the early Christians give as much attention or emphasis to that story as they did His death and resurrection?

Son: I suppose it is because He, Jesus, has always existed, even before time (as recorded in Genesis 1, John 1, and 1 John 1.) His taking on human flesh to exist in time was significant but not as big of a deal as was His death, which is worth noting because of its significance in the history of mankind, and in God's plan to restore His creation.

Think on that for a minute.

1. The creator became a part of His creation and subjected Himself to our limitations so He can take on our sin and its penalty. And in so doing redeem us from the bondage of sin.
"But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone." Hebrews 2:9 NIV
2. Christ's sacrifice covers ALL SIN and provides salvation to all, pre- and post-Calvary.
The songwriter states:

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood avails for me

See all your sins on Jesus laid:
The Lamb of God was slain,
His soul was once an offering made
For every soul of man.

"For this reason, Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant."
Hebrews 9:15 NIV

3. For all who obey, Jesus does bring victory over the eternal consequence of sin which is death; both physical death, and spiritual death, which is eternal separation from God. He does this with a call:
"Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?" Matthew 16:24-26 NIV

There are many today who are thrilled with the "baby Jesus." He is helpless, cute, and adorable. Lying in a manger and being looked upon by shepherds, wisemen and the "drummer boy", he makes no demands of us, has no questions for us, and gives us a good feeling. We can walk away from the manger without a thought because we feel good.

The cross, however, is not a feel-good place. The Jesus that hangs on it is no longer as adorable. Sin, mine, as well as yours, our sin, has done its work on Him. We have beaten Him, spat on Him, torn His skin, and placed a crown of thorns on His head to mock His kingship. We have torn His clothes from Him and taken away His dignity. And yet He still looks at us as we look on Him and asks us to come to Him and follow Him. The cross is uncomfortable. We cannot walk away from the cross without a response.

The Jesus on the cross lays His life down for a reason, with a purpose, and a call. His reason is man's salvation, His purpose was to obey God, and His call was for me and you to follow Him. Jesus chose first to deny Himself in

order to obey God. He calls us to do the same, to love him by obeying God. He seeks response - one of repentance and a life of obedience - or a denial to live for self without regard to God's call. Both are tied to that cross.

To the woman caught in adultery, He says, " Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more." John 8:11 ESV

To the man he healed at the pool of Bethesda, "Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.'" John 5:14 ESV

To us He says, deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me.

The fallout at Eden is restored on Calvary so that God's purpose for man is still available to you and me. Jesus still says: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. ²¹The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne." Rev. 3:21-22

The call is not without its rewards, but between the manger and the crown is the cross. What road of self-denial is the Lord calling you to take? What will your response be to Jesus?

Meta Awuah-Offei, Rolla, Missouri



BETRAYAL

Have you ever been betrayed? Or have you ever been the betrayer? At some time in our lives, we will all be betrayed by someone, whether a friend, loved one, co-worker, fellow Christian, or government. The deep hurt and disappointment are beyond describing. It WILL happen to us here on this earth.

Have you ever really thought deeply about the betrayal of Jesus? I have asked the question—Why did Jesus choose Judas Iscariot, knowing that he was going to eventually betray Him? Was it just to fulfill prophecy? In Acts 1:16, Peter says, *"Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus – he was one of our number and shared in this ministry."* (We know that Judas' remorse caused him to take his own life, verses 18-19).

Peter said in verse 20, *"...it is written in the book of Psalms, "May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it." (Psalm 69:25) Also, "May another take his place of leadership." (Psalm 109:8).*

Why didn't Judas repent in sorrow and come back to Jesus like Peter did? He could have. Could Jesus have hoped to change the heart of Judas during His ministry? There are a lot of questions, and I don't know the answers. God does!

Jesus was betrayed by two of His own – both Judas and Peter. I can't imagine the feeling of loss Jesus must have had. He knew the heart of each one, yet I am sure that didn't change the emotions of Jesus.

Our own betrayals in this life hurt us deeply, but they can't compare to the betrayals of Jesus. When I am betrayed by someone, do I have the courage to forgive like Jesus? If I'm the betrayer, will I repent and try to make it right?

As Christians, we are told to forgive, or our heavenly Father won't forgive us. Matthew 6:14, *"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But, if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."*

Betrayals are hard to take, but they are only temporary. Let's look forward to heaven where there will be *no* betrayals!

Mary Anna Melton, Rolla, Missouri



THE UGLINESS OF BETRAYAL

Patrick Henry, an American patriot, fought for America's independence from England. Independence gave the colonists freedom to pursue their own way of life. No one knew if their efforts would be successful or if they would end in failure. America was a great experiment in self-government.

In March, 1775, Henry said in a speech, "Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God, I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!" He never betrayed America.

Betrayal is such an ugly word. It reeks of broken relationships – perhaps when one betrays a confidence shared with a loved one or a friend. Perhaps it speaks of an unfaithful husband or wife who casts aside the sanctity of marriage vows.

Betrays occur in all sorts of situations, but the one that perplexes me most is Judas' betrayal of his Lord – Jesus. Jesus foretold His being betrayed in Matthew 26:21. The other disciples apparently trusted Judas and did not suspect him because they all began saying, "Master, is it I?" (Matthew 26:22, Mark 14:17-19) It is hard to imagine that any amount of money would be enough to betray Jesus. Judas' betrayal of Jesus with a kiss still stands as the ultimate betrayal.

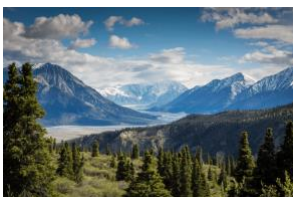
Betrayal has existed throughout history. The internet lists the 10 worst traitors in history, and Judas Iscariot is number **one** on the list. No other name conjures images of treachery and betrayal like that of Judas. Others on the list are Benedict Arnold and Aldrich Ames. Benedict Arnold was a hero of the American Revolution. Unlike Patrick Henry, Arnold betrayed America and defected to the British Army. Like Judas, Arnold's name is synonymous with betrayal. Aldrich Ames was a trusted CIA officer until he defected to the Soviet Union (Russia). He was convicted of espionage and became an agent **for** Russia! He was convicted in 1994 and is still in prison in Terre Haute, Indiana.

To be known as a traitor in any context would be horrible. It is vital that we all search our hearts for any shred of such betrayal of God and/or Jesus. We cannot betray Him exactly as Judas did, but we can betray Him by turning our backs on Him and going back to the ways of the world. Satan is busily searching for any defect in our armor.

Let us all faithfully and truly follow Him daily, carefully checking every day that our armor is complete and properly in place. With our spiritual armor always in place, we are conquerors! Let it never be said of us that we betrayed our Lord.

Evelyn Waite, Rolla, Missouri

✠✠✠✠✠



Fred Willmon

✠✠✠✠✠

Editor's Note

Betrayal is a dark subject, but the following should brighten your thoughts as we think of the ultimate outcome of the betrayal of Jesus by one of His own.

✠✠✠✠✠

Easter Thoughts for These Troubled Times By Helen Steiner Rice

*As the Easter season
dawns once again,
We look on a world
of restless men—
Men who are "driven"
by fear and greed
And caught in a web
of tension and speed,
Driving themselves
and the world, as well,
Into a future
no one can foretell—
Oh, God, instead
Of vain "driven men,"
Fill man's heart
with true "DRIVE" again.
Spurred on by FAITH
in GOD ABOVE
To build a new world
of "BROTHERLY LOVE."*

✠✠✠✠✠

The Empty Tomb

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you."

✠✠✠✠✠



Sunrise is a monthly newsletter written and/or assembled by members of the Rolla Church of Christ. Sunrise is printed and distributed (primarily via email) to individuals and congregations around the country. All previous issues can be accessed by going to <http://www.seekgrowservevelove.org>. Click on the Resources tab, then on Sunrise Newsletter. You will find the current issue plus all previous issues.

✠✠✠✠✠