

Title: The Selfless Love of Christ

Passage: Mark 14:32-52

Introduction

God is love and defined love.

- only through Him can we truly know and understand what love is.

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Context of Passage: Mark 14:32-42

Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsamane with His disciples nearby (but they fall asleep).

Mark 14:41-42

And he came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

Passage: Mark 14:43-52

And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard." And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" And he kissed him. And they laid hands on him and seized him. But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled." And they all left him and fled. And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

Greater Context of Passage

Gospel of Mark

- written for purpose to show that Jesus is the King (who has authority over all things).
- Chapters leading up to Chapter 14, see Jesus' authority shown over disease, demons, nature, and death
- Chapter 14: begins with incident of Jesus being anointed by special oil by a woman,

Mark 14:8

She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial.

- Then, Judas thereafter seeks money from the religious leaders to betray Jesus.
- Judas returns and shares Passover Meal with Jesus, having his feet washed, and goes out letting religious leaders know that Jesus would soon be praying privately.

Mark 14:43

And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.

- Religious leaders were prepared to take Jesus by force.

Mark 14:44

Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard."

- The one I will kiss
 - In culture, kiss is a symbol of affection and respect
 - Why? Judas wanted to still keep the facade that he was still friendly with Jesus.

Mark 14:46-49

And they laid hands on him and seized him. But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled."

- Jesus could have been arrested in public. Why? Religious leaders knew the crowd was enamored by Jesus and wanted to do it privately.

But let the Scriptures be fulfilled.

- It was God's plan for Jesus to be arrested, crucified, and resurrected for us. See many prophecies in Old Testament:

Psalm 41:9 (who will betray Jesus)

Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

Zechariah 11:13 (how much money used to betray)

Then the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD, to the potter.

Zechariah 13:7

"Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me," declares the LORD of hosts. "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; I will turn my hand against the little ones.

- Jesus was calm and at peace despite what was happening. Why? He knew what was to come.

John 6:70-71

Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

- Jesus already spoke of forthcoming betrayal.

John 13:21-26

After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.

- Jesus knew all the details of the betrayal

Question: Did Judas have a choice and be held responsible for what happened?

- Some have asserted that Judas was good but turned bad beyond his choice.

John 13:27

Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly."

- Truth: Judas was 100% responsible for his choices. He had many opportunities to do otherwise than betrayal.

John 12:4-6

But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.

- Judas lived in habitual sin without repentance or remorse.
- Judas was never more isolated than the other disciples but saw the very same miracles as the other disciples (Jesus' teaching and miracles), but he continued to reject Jesus.

Point: The spiritual realm is real that can take control of someone if not a Christian.

- Analogy: A man rows a boat towards a certain destination. Satan then comes along and offers a stronger wind to have the person reach his destination faster
- Satan doesn't make us to do things we want to do, but rather empowers us to do things God doesn't want us to do.

What happened to Judas?

- He did feel regret
- But regret did not lead him to repentance
- Instead, he chose to kill himself.

Repentance = sincere changing of heart (Greek word "metanoia" = like metamorphosis)

2 Corinthians 7:10 (godly sorrow vs. worldly sorrow)

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

- Godly sorrow is sincere and turns to God in response

- Distinction: you can be sorry but not sorry for the sin itself. Just sad you were caught.
- Key: Turning to God in sincere repentance of sin.

Mark 14:50

And they all left him and fled.

- Betrayal of Jesus was not just limited to just Judas. All the disciples fled. Soon thereafter, Peter denied Jesus three times.

APPLICATION

Key Lessons of Life of Judas

Sometimes you bear no responsibility for one you love who betrays you and wrecks their life and shipwrecks their faith.

- you might have someone in your life and tempted to feel guilty
 - “Maybe I should have loved them more or do more”
 - Truth: ultimately, each person is responsible for decisions made.
- *Though circumstances may be significant, they are not determinative.*
 - It’s never your fault.
- Compare: you might be tempted to blame Jesus for Judas = you might be tempted to blame yourself to provide better friends or do...
 - Truth: each person has opportunities to do what is right.
- Today’s culture: blame shifting where responsibility is with something or someone else. Play the “victim” card.
 - Truth: God is sovereign - He allows and permits all things. We must turn to God for true meaning. Stop blaming others or play
- Stop others trying to guilt you.
 - Repent where need to. Accept Christ’s righteousness and forgiveness.
 - Draw a line in the sand with grace and truth.
 - Each person is fully responsible for their life.

Sitting under good Bible teaching is not enough, you must believe it.

- Judas had full access to the most perfect teaching but failed to believe it.

James 1:22-25

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

Being in community with God's people is not enough, you need to be truly connected to God to be connected with God's people.

- Judas was among the disciples, but his heart was not there. He was with the right people but nevertheless had no connection with God.
- Misperception: Being part of a community group means I have a relationship with God.
- Knowledge about Jesus is pure information but the love of Jesus leads to transformation.

Being involved in ministry is not enough, you need to love Jesus.

- Judas was among the disciples. He had gone out among others to minister to others.

Matthew 7:22-23

On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

- Misperception: focused on what you do rather than the person of Jesus.

False teachers seem to be credible when they serve the poor and speak well.

- Judas: He had the best resume and experience.
- Misperception: one may have good backgrounds but their direction and trajectory

You cannot lose your salvation but you can fake it.

- Judas never was saved but he "faked" it among others. Judas' betrayal wasn't a change of his character but revelation of his character.

John 17:12

While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

- Question: How you know you are faking it?
- Answer: Are you one person in public and a different person in private?
 - Judas: in public, he served good but privately was a thief.
- Question: Who are you truly when it is just you and God?
 - Do you sincerely love Jesus?

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

- Truth: stop trying to cover your sin and messes; stop blame shifting.
 - Come to Jesus. Don't delay.
- Consider God's rich, deep love for you. Receive God's mercy and grace through Jesus.

Acts 16:31

And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Romans 5:1-8

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.