TITLE: BETRAYAL

TEXT: Hos. 1:2-3; Lk. 22:47-48; Mt. 26:47-50; Lk. 22:2-6; Mt. 27:3-5; Lk. 22:59-62; Jn. 14:15-19

INTRODUCTION: This morning, I want to talk about Betrayal. Has anyone one here this morning ever been betrayed by someone? Been betrayed by someone close to you? The fact is an enemy can’t really betray you, only a friend or loved one can commit the act of true betrayal.

If you have ever experienced being betrayed by a friend or someone that you love then you know the pain involved, the deep emotional hurt.

Betrayal is the main subject of the book of Hosea. The book is about a wife who has betrayed the trust of her husband and a Nation who has betrayed the trust of their God.

Hosea was a bachelor prophet of God and God commands Hosea to go out and find a wife. Now you would think that God would want His prophet to go out and find a pretty upstanding wife to be a help-meet to him in his ministry but God has a different set of qualifications for this Prophets wife….

**Hosea 1:2 (NIV)** **2When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, “Go, take to yourself an adulterous wife and children of unfaithfulness!**

Hosea, you need a lady in your life so I want you to go out and find a wife for yourself….Now this is the qualifications that I want you to look for in your wife…

Find a wife who will be adulterous and unfaithful to you.

Go out and look for a girl of loose morals. Go into town and find the girl with the absolute worse reputation that you can and then ask her to marry you!

Hosea goes out and obeys the word of the Lord…

**Hosea 1:3 (NIV)** **3So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.**

In all, Gomer has three children while living with Hosea. Many commentators feel that the first child is Hosea’s but the next two are children of adulterous affairs that Gomer has with other men.

The fact is that Hosea was betrayed by his wife. And that betrayal had to be excruciatingly painful.

Even though Hosea knew Gomer’s previous reputation, once he took her as his wife and then to have her betray that trust had to hurt.

An enemy can’t betray you because there is no trust, no bond to break. Betrayal can only happen where a relationship has been established.

**Betrayal = To give aid or information to an enemy of; commit treason against: *betray one's country.* b. To deliver into the hands of an enemy in violation of a trust or allegiance*.* 2. To be false or disloyal to: *betrayed their cause; betray one's better nature.***.

It is one thing to turn against one’s enemy but quite another to betray ones friend.

In fact, betrayal is almost to be expected of an enemy, but it is the last thing that we would expect from a friend.

One of the emotional and moving scenes in the movie The Passion was the betrayal of Christ in the garden.

**Luke 22:47 - 48 (NIV)**

**47While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, 48but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”**

Word for Betraying used here is

***par-ad-id'-o-mee***

**From**[**G3844**](about:blanksteplinkto0%200000012552) **and**[**G1325**](about:blanksteplinkto0%200000010107)**; to *surrender*, that is, *yield* *up*,  betray, deliver (up), give (over, up),**

Even though Jesus knew what was coming that act of betrayal had to hurt.

Judas was among the original 12! Judas was a disciple of Jesus! One that Jesus had “hand selected” as one of his closest friends…

He had walked with Jesus and talked with Jesus and been with Jesus all throughout his 3 years of public ministry!

To betray him was one thing but to do it in such a personal way as with a kiss was something totally different.

It had to hurt! It had to tear at the heart of Christ.

**Judas, are you betraying Me with a kiss?”**

There is something pretty amazing that Matthew records Jesus as saying to Judas right after his betrayal of Jesus…..

**Matthew 26:47 - 50 (NIV)**

**47While 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.**

**48Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.”****49Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.**

**50Jesus replied, “Friend, do what you came for.”**

**Jesus replied, “Friend, do what you came for.”**

Even after being betrayed by Judas, Jesus addresses Judas as friend…

The word that Jesus used was:

***het-ah'ee-ros* (a *clansman*); a *comrade:*—friend.**

Any act of betrayal is painful; it hurts, but how much more excruciating is the pain when that betrayal comes from someone who is close to you. Someone with whom you have had an intimate relationship.

And that is what the kiss of Judas signified… Someone who was close in relationship with Jesus. Judas was not just a student of Jesus, but he was a friend of Jesus.

How much more painful is the experience if the betrayal comes with a kiss! The betrayal comes from a friend.

I don’t know that Judas primary consideration in betraying Jesus was the 30 pieces of silver, the money he received from the Pharisees for doing it.

The money came after he had agreed to betray Jesus…

**Luke 22:2 - 6 (NIV) 1Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching,****2and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people. 3Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. 4And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus.****5They were delighted and agreed to give him money.****6He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.**

Judas heart was not right with the Lord and Satan found an entrance to it. Satan found a weakness within Judas, and he then took advantage of that weakness. Some will say that weakness was greed and Judas did it primarily for the money. I don’t know if that is true. I think that Judas was greedy, that he was somewhat of an opportunist, but I don’t know that money was his primary motivation here.

The Chief priests and the teachers of the Law were looking for a way to get rid of Jesus.

Judas probably had a reputation as being an opportunist. Especially before he became a follower of Christ.

It is possible that the Chief priests had called for him to meet with them.

Scripture says: **the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus…**

**4And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus.**

After that discussion it says….

**5They were delighted and agreed to give him money. 6He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.**

I have no idea what was going on in the mind and in the heart of Judas here. Possibly he was just a greedy opportunist, and his sole concern was the money he was paid for the betrayal. But if that were his only concern then the reaction of Judas after Jesus was arrested and convicted seems odd…

**Matthew 27:3 - 5 (NIV) 3When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. 4“I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.”**

**“What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.”**

**5So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.**

If the money was the only concern of Judas then it seems odd to me that he would react this way after the fact.

I believe the money was something secondary to Judas, a side benefit, a perk, if you will.

What may have been a primary objective of Judas was to take it upon himself to have the Christ revealed to the people as the Messiah! The deliverer of his people! The one who the Old Testament prophets had spoken about who would one day come and rule with an iron rod from Jerusalem.

Judas may have been trying to force Christ to take what Judas believed was the purpose for his coming. To deliver the people from Roman oppression and establish his earthly kingdom.

In the Jewish mindset that is what the Messiah was coming for and coming to do..

Judas obviously wasn’t looking for Jesus to die on a cross because of his reaction when Jesus was condemned; If Judas thought that Jesus was the promised messiah then he was looking for him to deliver the people and establish his kingdom on earth.

But for whatever the reason Judas betrayed Jesus and that betrayal had to cut to the heart of Christ because that betrayal came from a friend.

The Pharisees and teachers of the law Jesus would have expected it from, but not from a friend…

The fact is Judas wasn’t the only betrayal that took place that night was it?

There was a betrayal that I think hurt Jesus even more.

When three times one of his closest, most intimate friends denied even knowing who he was..

Peter, the outspoken disciple of Christ. The one who spoke up and said, that even though all forsake you Lord I never will! Peter said that he would even die with Jesus if that were necessary.

Then after the arrest of Jesus in the garden Peter denies even knowing who Jesus is three times!

The third time Peter denies the Lord is recorded in: **Luke 22:59 - 61 (NIV)**  **59About an hour later another asserted, “Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean.”**

**60Peter replied, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!” Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed.****61The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter.**

Scripture tells us of Peter’s reaction to that look of the Lord…

**Luke 22:62** **62And he went outside and wept bitterly.**

What look would Jesus have had on his face as he hears Peter deny him for the third time..

Try to put yourself in Jesus shoes here. You have been accused of crimes that you didn’t commit. You have been mistreated by people that you have only shown love for. All of your closest friends have deserted you. You stand before an angry, jeering mob that wants to see you dead..

And then you hear a familiar voice, the voice of a close friend, one who has previously said that he would even die for you…. And the words that you hear this friend speak are….I don’t know the man!

What look would have been reflected on the face of Jesus as he looks over at Peter hearing him say these words of denial?

Disappointment! Hurt! Pain! Sorrow?

I believe all the above. But the greatest was probably pain!

Whatever that look was, it cut right into the heart of Peter and his reaction to it was that he went out and wept bitterly!

Whatever it was Peter saw in Jesus eyes as their eyes met it caused Peter to go out and weep..

You see, Peter’s denial was also an act of betrayal! Betrayal by a friend of a friend!

Let me ask you a question this morning….

Do you consider Jesus your friend? I hope you do because He is…

Do you realize that He considers you His friend? Again, I hope you do because you are….

Yet how often have we betrayed Him and, like Judas, done it with a kiss?

I believe that we often do just that... We betray Jesus and we do it with a kiss…

Whenever we say that we are a Christian, whenever we say that we love the Lord and then we willfully disobey what He has told us to do we have betrayed Jesus with a kiss!

It is an act of betrayal on our part of someone we consider our friend!

**John 14:15 (NIV)** **15“If you love me, you will obey what I command**

For a Christian any act of disobedience is an act of betrayal of Christ.

When we say that we love Him and then choose to disobey Him we, like Judas, betray Him with a kiss...

When we say that we love Christ and then go out and do un-Christ like things, then we, like Judas, betray Him with a kiss.

When we say we love Jesus and then hate our brother we betray Jesus with a kiss!

When we say we love Jesus and then gossip or slander our neighbor then we betray Him with a kiss!

When we say we love Jesus but don’t forgive others as He has forgiven us then we betray Him with a kiss!

When we use our voice to praise Him on Sunday and then live our lives the rest of the week as though we have never heard of Him then we have betrayed Him with a kiss!

When we call ourselves by His name and see someone trapped in the bondage and hopelessness of a life outside of Christ and we don’t tell them about Jesus and His love for them when we have opportunity to do so then we betray Jesus with a kiss!

When the roster crowed Peter realized that his denial of Christ was his betrayal of Christ and when he came to that realization it cut him to the heart and he went out and wept bitterly! His tears were tears of repentance!

Jesus, after He rises from the grave and before He ascends to Heaven, gives Peter the opportunity to deal with his betrayal. Jesus gives Peter the opportunity to confess his love for Him as many times as he had previously denied Him.

**John 21:15 - John 21:19 (NIV)**

**15When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?”**

**“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”**

**Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”**

**16Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?”**

**He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”**

**Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”**

**17The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”**

**Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”**

**Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.**

Jesus wasn’t being cruel here to Peter by asking him the same question three times. 

He was giving Peter, I believe, an opportunity to confess his love for Him as many times as Peter had previously denied Him!

Jesus was applying the soothing balm of healing to Peter’s soul for his previous acts of betrayal by giving Peter an equal opportunity to confess his love for Him..

Peter, do you love Me? Yes Lord, I love you!

Peter, do you love Me? Yes Lord, I love you!

Peter, do you love Me? Lord, you know all things! You know that I love you!

Jesus was also telling Peter how to express his love for Him!

Feed my lambs! Feed My sheep!

For when you have done it to the least of these you have done it unto me!

The fact is we have all probably betrayed Jesus and betrayed Him with a kiss, more times than we would like to think about….

Betrayed Him through disobedience to His word and His will for our life…

Betrayed Him through idolatry, placing more concern on the things of this world then we do on living righteous lives and serving Him in this world…

Betrayed Him through our apathy and our lack of love, both for Him and for the lost that He came to give His life for…

Jesus offers us the same hope of restoration for our betrayals of Him as He did to Peter…He still asks us the same question. Do you love Me!

We say yes Lord by saying-- yes to the Lord!

Yes Lord, I love you and my love will be manifest in a life of obedience to your word and your will!

Yes lord, I love you and my love for you will be manifest in my love and concern for others!

Yes lord, I love you and my love for you will be manifest in my willingness to tell others who don’t know you about You….

Yes Lord, I will feed your lambs!

Yes lord, I will feed your sheep!

Yes Lord, I will feed the young and the old and everyone in-between.

Is the life that you are living as a Christian a life of betrayal or is it a life lived saying Yes Lord, I love You!

The fact is, for anyone who has professed Jesus as the Lord and Savior of their life, the words, no Lord, become an oxymoron, a contradiction in terms!

Are you living your life and professing your love for Christ by saying Yes to Him?