

Introduction (Luke 22:47-65)

This week we are looking at the betrayal by Judas, the denial by Peter, and the blasphemy by others. How many of you have ever been betrayed? A few weeks ago, I was betrayed by one of my employees. He violated my trust and shared things with a former employee that he should have never shared, and it made that other person very angry. I had not done anything unethical or wrong. In fact, I did the very things that any good manager would have done. But, the employee slandered and betrayed me to this other man. When I confronted the employee about it, he kept saying, "I'm sorry. I am very sorry."

I am quick to forgive and I give lots of grace. Even though I have given forgiveness, I know that I must be more careful what is said or done around this employee. I lost some trust and confidence in this particular employee. But, I am not holding a grudge. I am committed to walking in right standing with people, and not harboring any unforgiveness or bitterness. That is something that we are all committed to at the East Mountain Vineyard.

I am not alone when it comes to being betrayed. In fact, last week Dez Bryant, a wide receiver for the Dallas Cowboys, was quoted in the news as saying, "I've been betrayed." We have not been given all the facts yet, but the allegations are that he did some questionable things in a Walmart parking lot. Sometimes a betrayal involves wrong behavior, but as we will see in the text today, Jesus was betrayed, but He never did anything inappropriate. He was without sin.

This week we saw in the news that the United States has betrayed Israel. Israel has been our strongest ally in the Middle East, and our statements and policies have put Israel in a very precarious position. With Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu making a speech on Monday to the Congress, our relationship with Israel, and our policies in the Middle East were at the forefront of our news.

We are in a mini-series leading up to Easter. This is our sixth message in that Easter series, and we are looking at Luke 22:47-53. This morning we will be looking how Jesus was betrayed, how He was denied, and third, how He was beaten and blasphemed. Let's read our text today.

(Luke 22:47-53) "While He was still speaking, behold, a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was preceding them; and he approached Jesus to kiss Him. {48} But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" {49} When those who were around Him saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" {50} And one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. {51} But Jesus answered and said, "Stop! No more of this." And He touched his ear and healed him. {52} Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders who had come against Him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as you would against a robber? {53} "While I was with you daily in the temple, you did not lay hands on Me; but this hour and the power of darkness are yours."

(Luke 22:54-62) "Having arrested Him, they led Him away and brought Him to the house of the high priest; but Peter was following at a distance. {55} After they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter was sitting among them. {56} And a servant-girl, seeing him as he sat in the firelight and looking intently at him, said, "This man was with Him too." {57} But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him." {58} A little later,

another saw him and said, "You are one of them too!" But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" {59} After about an hour had passed, another man began to insist, saying, "Certainly this man also was with Him, for he is a Galilean too." {60} But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. {61} The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times." {62} And he went out and wept bitterly."

(Luke 22:63-65) "Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking Him and beating Him, {64} and they blindfolded Him and were asking Him, saying, "Prophecy, who is the one who hit You?" {65} And they were saying many other things against Him, blaspheming."

1. Betrayed

In our text today, Jesus is betrayed with a kiss by Judas. This betrayal was carefully planned. Judas had gone to the chief priests, and they put together a plan for Judas to hand Jesus over to them. Jesus is at a place that He often frequented with His disciples. Judas has brought the chief priests, officers, and soldiers with him to this place and he then proceeds to betray Jesus.

(Luke 22:47-48) "While He was still speaking, behold, a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was preceding them; and he approached Jesus to kiss Him. {48} But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

What is betrayal? According to www.Dictionary.com, it is to:

1. Deliver or expose to an enemy by treachery or disloyalty: (Benedict Arnold betrayed his country.)
2. Be unfaithful in guarding, maintaining, or fulfilling: to betray a trust.
3. Reveal or disclose in violation of confidence: to betray a secret.

In our text today, the word for betray is paradidomi, which means to hand over, give over, or betray. Judas has handed over Jesus to the chief priests. In the truest sense of the word, he has delivered over Jesus, and has acted with treachery and disloyalty. He has betrayed the trust of Jesus.

Betray - paradidomi, Strong's G3860, to hand over, give over, betray

If Jesus had wanted to foil the plan, He could have easily done so. He knew He was going to be betrayed. He knew who was going to betray Him, when and where it was going to happen. He could have prevented it, but He knew it was all part of the plan. In fact, Jesus had told His disciples in advance what was going to happen. In Luke 18, He said that we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. He will be handed over or paradidomi to the Gentiles. The word handed over is the same Greek word that is translated as betrayed in our passage today. He had also told them that He would be mocked, mistreated, spit upon, scourged, and crucified. He knew exactly what was going to happen.

(Luke 18:31-33) "Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. {32} For He will be handed (paradidomi- betrayed) over to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and mistreated and spit upon, {33} and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again."

Jesus is not the only one in the Scriptures who was betrayed. Samson was betrayed three times. The first betrayal was by his wife. Their wedding feast was seven days long. He told the Philistines a riddle, and told them that if they could give the answer to the riddle before the end of the seven days, he would give them thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes. And, if they could not tell him the riddle, they would have to give him thirty linen wraps and changes of clothes.

(Judges 14:12-13) "Then Samson said to them, "Let me now propound a riddle to you; if you will indeed tell it to me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes. {13} "But if you are unable to tell me, then you shall give me thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes." And they said to him, "Propound your riddle, that we may hear it."

The Philistines were not making any headway, so on the fourth day, they approached Samson's wife and threatened to burn her and her father's house with fire if she did not entice Samson to reveal the answer to her, and then to give it to them.

(Judges 14:15) "Then it came about on the fourth day that they said to Samson's wife, "Entice your husband, so that he will tell us the riddle, or we will burn you and your father's house with fire. Have you invited us to impoverish us? Is this not so?"

So, she wept before him and begged him to tell her. She wept before him for seven days. Instead of celebrating and rejoicing in her wedding feast, she wept. There is an old saying, "happy wife, happy life." In fact, there was a marriage video made with that title. Samson's bride was not happy, and it was probably not a joyful experience for Samson either.

(Judges 14:16-17a) "Samson's wife wept before him and said, "You only hate me, and you do not love me; you have propounded a riddle to the sons of my people, and have not told it to me." And he said to her, "Behold, I have not told it to my father or mother; so should I tell you?" {17} However she wept before him seven days while their feast lasted..."

On the seventh day, he gave in and told her the riddle. Then, she betrayed him, and told the riddle to her people. The men of the city gave the answer to Samson, and he said to them, "if you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have found out my riddle." We gather from this account that sometimes people get pressed into a corner and do things that they should not do. His wife was threatened and betrayed her husband because of fear. **Some people betray out of fear.** As it turned out, the woman was given to Samson's friend at the end of the feast, and as a result, Samson set their wheat fields, vineyards, and groves on fire. Consequently, the Philistines burned her father for giving her to another man, and they also burned her to death.

(Judges 14:17b-18) "...And on the seventh day he told her because she pressed him so hard. She then told the riddle to the sons of her people. {18} So the men of the city said to him on the seventh day before the sun went down, "What is sweeter than honey? And what is stronger than a lion?" And he said to them, "If you had not plowed with my heifer, You would not have found out my riddle."

The second betrayal was at the hands of three thousand men of Judah at Lehi. The Philistines were upset because he had burned up their harvest. They came against the sons of Judah and said they

were going to do to Samson as he had done to them. Anyway, they were up front and told Samson that they wanted to tie him up and deliver him to the Philistines. He allowed them to do it on one provision, that they did not kill him. So, they tied him up with rope and gave him to the Philistines. As the Philistines approached him, the Spirit of the Lord came on him mightily and he broke the rope, picked up a jawbone of a donkey, and killed a thousand Philistines with it.

The third time that Samson was betrayed was by a woman named Delilah. She was promised eleven hundred pieces of silver if she would betray Samson. This betrayal had a root of greed. **Some people betray out of greed.**

(Judges 16:4-5) “After this it came about that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. {5} The lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, "Entice him, and see where his great strength lies and how we may overpower him that we may bind him to afflict him. Then we will each give you eleven hundred pieces of silver.”

When Jesus was betrayed by Judas, there was also a root of greed. A few weeks ago we saw that Judas met with the chief priests and officers, and he agreed to betray Jesus for money. Matthew records that Judas asked them, “what are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?” They weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him. Judas had a root of greed and betrayed Jesus.

(Matt 26:14-16) “Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests {15} and said, "What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?" And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him. {16} From then on he began looking for a good opportunity to betray Jesus.”

This root of greed was not something new. John recorded that Judas was a thief. He was the treasurer for Jesus and the disciples and kept the money box. He had a habit of pilfering what was in the money box. He had a root of greed, and it led him to betrayal.

(John 12:4-6) “But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, *said, {5} "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor people?" {6} Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.”

Delilah kept pressing Samson to give her the secret to his strength. Each time he gave an answer, it was closer to the real answer. Finally, after three false answers, he confided in Delilah and told her that a razor had never touched his head. When she realized that he had told her what was in his heart, she had him sleep on her lap, and had a man shave off his seven locks of hair. When she began to afflict him, his strength had left him. The Philistines gouged out his eyes, and enslaved him.

(Judges 16:15-19) “ Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me? You have deceived me these three times and have not told me where your great strength is." {16} It came about when she pressed him daily with her words and urged him, that his soul was annoyed to death. {17} So he told her all that was in his heart and said to her, "A razor has never come on my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaved, then my strength will leave me and I will become weak and be like any other man." {18} When Delilah saw that he had told her all that was in his heart, she sent and called the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up once more, for he has told me all that is in his

heart." Then the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hands. {19} She made him sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his hair. Then she began to afflict him, and his strength left him."

What do we learn from this betrayal? **We need to choose our friends carefully.** Who we keep company with is very important. Character is important. We cannot entrust ourselves to people with poor character. Young people, choose your mates carefully. Choose a man or woman of character, who will not betray you. Choose a life partner who will stand with you to fight your enemies. Choose a life partner that will cover your back. Second, learn to be prudent and discerning. Samson had lots of warning signs that he ignored or missed because of a lack of discernment.

David was another man who had been betrayed on more than one occasion. In Psalm 41:9, he said that his close friend, whom he had trusted, and had eaten his bread, lifted up his heel against him. Theologians are not certain who this close friend was that betrayed David, but some think it was Ahithophel. In any case, it was obviously a very painful experience for David. **Some of the hardest betrayals to take are from those we trust.**

(Psa 41:9) "Even my close friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me."

In our text today, Jesus is betrayed by Judas. Notice that Judas approached Jesus to kiss Him. The Greek word for kiss is philema, and the root word of philema is philos, which means brotherly love. In this instance, the word phileo is used. Phileo means to love. It comes from philos, which means brotherly love. The common way to greet a friend or relative was to kiss them. Jesus was being betrayed by a brother, and a close friend. Jesus was being betrayed in the same way that David had been betrayed, by someone who had broken bread with Him.

(Luke 22:47-48) "While He was still speaking, behold, a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was preceding them; and he approached Jesus to kiss Him. {48} But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Later on in David's life, some sons of Benjamin and Judah came to his stronghold. David went out to meet them, and said to them, "if you have come peacefully to me to help me, my heart shall be united with you, but if to betray me to my adversaries, since there is no wrong in my hands, may the God of our fathers look on it and decide." David was leery of being betrayed again. He entrusted himself to God, and looked to God to defend him.

(1 Chron 12:16-17) "Then some of the sons of Benjamin and Judah came to the stronghold to David. {17} David went out to meet them, and said to them, "If you come peacefully to me to help me, my heart shall be united with you; but if to betray me to my adversaries, since there is no wrong in my hands, may the God of our fathers look on it and decide."

Notice that David did not say that if I find that you have betrayed you, I will put you to death. He said, may the God of our fathers look on it and decide. In our text today, the disciples responded in the flesh. They pulled out their swords, and Peter cuts off the ear of Malchus, the slave of the high priest. Jesus tells them, "Stop! No more of this!" And, Jesus touches Malchus' ear and heals him. Then, he addresses the chief priests and officers. He asks them if they have come out with swords

and clubs as they would against a robber. He is telling them that He is innocent, and does not intend to put up a fight. Jesus has entrusted Himself to God, the Father. He knows that this is all part of the plan, and He is being obedient to the point of death on the cross. Then, He tells them that this hour and the power of darkness are theirs. **When you and I are betrayed, we must also entrust ourselves to our Father.** God is our defense. Vengeance is not ours to take; it belongs to the Lord. We must forgive and trust God to deal with the matter. That is what David and Jesus did.

(Luke 22:49-53) "When those who were around Him saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" {50} And one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. {51} But Jesus answered and said, "Stop! No more of this." And He touched his ear and healed him. {52} Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders who had come against Him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as you would against a robber? {53} "While I was with you daily in the temple, you did not lay hands on Me; but this hour and the power of darkness are yours."

We see in 1 Peter 2 that this is what Jesus did. When He was reviled, He did not respond in the flesh and revile back. When He suffered, He uttered no threats. Peter said that He kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously. Jesus was our example in times of suffering. We must entrust ourselves to God.

(1 Pet 2:21-25) "For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, {22} WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; {23} and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; {24} and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. {25} For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls."

Why is all of this important? We are in the last days. We find in Matthew 24 that in these last days we are going to be delivered to tribulation. There will be some that are killed. We will be hated by all nations because of the name of Jesus. We also find that in these last days, many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. I share this with you because I believe we need to be on guard.

(Matt 24:9-10) "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. {10} "At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another."

Two weeks ago Karen and I met with a missionary family in Afghanistan. They are from Kazakhstan, but have been ministering in Afghanistan, a Moslem country that is closed to the gospel. They were teaching people English, teaching computer classes, teaching them to sow, and were doing humanitarian works and were also preaching the gospel. Their compound was bombed by the Taliban two months ago. They were fortunate to have escaped, but their co-workers and the other children were all killed. As they shared with us, Edick began crying. He explained that the Taliban knew the floor plan of the three-story building. They knew every room and where everyone would be in the building. He said that there had to be an insider that helped them. In other words, Edick and

Olya were betrayed and a number of Christian workers were murdered because of the betrayal.

This is like the early church. Paul went around ravaging the church. He dragged people to prison and they killed others. When Paul received Christ, the church in Jerusalem would not associate with him. They were afraid of him, not believing he was a disciple. They thought he was wanting to get inside so that he could betray them. The early church was being careful. It was not until Barnabas vouched for Paul that he was free to move about and minister to the church.

(Acts 9:26-28) “When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. {27} But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. {28} And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord.”

Here are some things to help us avoid betraying God or one another. First, cling to the Lord. Instead of falling away, press in to the Lord. When things get tough, press in even harder. Second, keep a pure heart. Have pure motives. Greed, fear, unforgiveness, and other things can cause betrayal. We must keep a clean heart and live with a clean conscience. Our vision at the East Mountain Vineyard is to love the Lord with all our heart, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Before I move on to denial, I want to share one final verse. In 1 Peter 1, we find that when we have purified our souls we can have a sincere love of the brethren, and we can fervently love one another from the heart. We must maintain pure hearts before God and before one another. This will help us avoid betrayal. Without a pure heart, we cannot fervently love one another from the heart.

(1 Pet 1:22) “Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,”

2. Denied

We learned a few weeks ago that all the apostles were going to be sifted and tested. All of them were going to fall away. It was not just Peter. But, Peter was the leader of the twelve apostles, and we are given the account of his denial of Christ. There are ten other accounts of denial not recorded.

(Matt 26:31) “Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, 'I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK SHALL BE SCATTERED.'”

Just as Jesus knew that Judas was going to betray Him, He also knew exactly what was going to happen to Peter. Earlier in the chapter, Jesus told Peter that a rooster will not crow today until he has denied Jesus three times. The Jewish calendar began with night (sundown) and then day. The day has already begun. Now, when we had chickens and roosters, they started crowing about four thirty in the morning. It is going to be a long night for Jesus and the apostles. And before the sun comes up, Peter is going to deny Jesus three times.

(Luke 22:34) “And He said, ‘I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have

denied three times that you know Me.”

They brought Jesus to the house of the high priest. It must have been a nice house, as it had a courtyard with a place for a fire in the middle of it. Peter had followed Jesus at a distance, but now he has joined the others by the fire. It is here that he first denies Jesus. A servant-girl looked intently at him and said, “this man was with Him too.” And, Peter denied it, saying, “Woman, I do not know Him.” Just a short time later, another person saw Peter and said, “You are one of them too!” For the second time, Peter denies being a follower of Jesus.

(Luke 22:54-58) “Having arrested Him, they led Him away and brought Him to the house of the high priest; but Peter was following at a distance. {55} After they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter was sitting among them. {56} And a servant-girl, seeing him as he sat in the firelight and looking intently at him, said, "This man was with Him too." {57} But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him. {58} A little later, another saw him and said, "You are one of them too!" But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"

Then, another hour passes and another man began to insist that Peter was with Jesus, saying, “for he is a Galilean too.” And, for a third time, Peter denies Christ. He said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” And, immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed.”

(Luke 22:59-60) “After about an hour had passed, another man began to insist, saying, "Certainly this man also was with Him, for he is a Galilean too." {60} But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed.”

Jesus is also being kept in the courtyard. When the rooster crowed, He turned and looked at Peter. When we sin and miss the mark, God knows we have sinned. He sees everything that we do. **Confessing our sins is simply agreeing with God or acknowledging that we have sinned.** It is asking Him to forgive us for our sins. Notice Peter’s response. He went out and wept bitterly. Peter is feeling ashamed. Peter knows he has failed Christ. He is feeling terrible about what he has done, and he goes out and weeps bitterly.

(Luke 22:61-62) “The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times." {62} And he went out and wept bitterly.”

Jesus restored Peter to his calling to ministry. Luke does not record how Jesus restores Peter. We find that account in the Gospel of John. Peter had been out fishing, and Jesus appears. He tells them to cast their nets on the right side of the boat. They told Him that they had fished all night and had not caught anything. So, they cast their nets on the right side of the boat and gathered in a whole net full of fish. They had so many that they could not haul it in. Then, they recognized that it was the Lord who had beckoned them to do this. When they got to the shore, Jesus has a fire going and they eat some fish for breakfast.

Now, after they had finished breakfast, Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him more than these. He asks if Peter agapao Him more than the fish. Peter had gone back to fishing. Jesus has called and trained Peter to be a fisher of men. Peter has a decision to make. Peter answered, “Yes, Lord, You know that I love You.” Peter uses the word phileo, which means a brotherly love. And Jesus answers him and

said, "Tend My lambs." The Greek word for tend is bosko, which means feed. Jesus has called Peter to teach and preach, which is a big part of shepherding God's flock.

(John 21:15) "So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus *said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He *said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He *said to him, "Tend My lambs."

Then, Jesus asks Peter a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me? Again, Jesus uses the Greek word agapao, which is God's perfect love. Peter replies again, "Yes, Lord, You know that I phileo You." Jesus tells him to "shepherd My sheep." The word for shepherd is poimano, which means shepherd. A shepherd is a pastor. Poimano is one of three words used to describe the office of an elder or overseer. A shepherd cares for the flock. A shepherd leads the flock. A shepherd protects the flock. Jesus is calling Peter to shepherd His flock, not cast nets for fish.

(John 21:16) "He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He *said to him, "Shepherd My sheep."

Jesus asks Peter for a third time, "Simon, do you love Me? This time, Jesus uses the word phileo. Peter, do you love Me as a brother?" Peter was grieved because Jesus had asked him for a third time. Peter has denied Jesus three times, and now Jesus is asking him to confess that he loves Jesus three times. It is part of the restoration of Peter, but it is painful for Peter to go through. Peter answers Jesus and tells Him that He knows all things. He knew that Jesus was omniscient, which means that He knows all things. Peter tells Jesus that He knows that he loves Him. And, Jesus tells him again to tend or feed His sheep.

(John 21:17) "He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus *said to him, "Tend My sheep."

Denying Christ is a big thing. Jesus said in Matthew 10 that if we confess Jesus before men, He will confess us before the Father, but if we deny Him before men, He will deny us before the Father in heaven. Denying Christ is a big thing.

(Matt 10:32-33) "Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. {33} "But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven."

Paul reiterates that in 2 Timothy. He says if we endure, we will reign with Him. If we deny Him, He will also deny us." There are rewards for confessing Jesus and enduring. And, there are serious consequences for denying Christ.

(2 Tim 2:12-13) "If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; {13} If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself."

Denying Christ is not just with our words. **We can also deny God by our deeds.** Paul wrote to Titus and said that some people profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

(Titus 1:16) “They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.”

We find the same message in Jude. He says that certain persons have crept in unnoticed, ungodly persons who turn the grace of God into licentiousness and deny our Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. Our actions tell us whether we truly believe God or not. If we believe God hears our prayers and answers them, then we will pray. Our prayerlessness reflects an unbelief. It is a way of denying God. If we believe that God is the supplier of all of our needs, we have no problem giving God our tithes and offerings. If we do not honor God with tithes and offerings, it is a way of denying that He is our Provider. We must be careful that we do not deny Christ with our lives.

(Jude 1:4) “For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.”

How do we keep from denying the Lord? First, **we need Holy Spirit boldness.** When Peter and John were arrested and commanded not to speak anymore in the name of Jesus, they gathered the church together and prayed about the situation, and prayed for boldness. After they had prayed, the place was shaken together and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness. We need Holy Spirit boldness in sharing with the word of the Lord with people.

(Acts 4:29-31) “And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, {30} while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.” {31} And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.”

Second, **we must share our testimonies.** It is part of how we overcome the enemy. In Revelations 12:11, we find that there are three things that help us overcome. We overcome because of the blood of the Lamb, the word of our testimony, and by not loving our own lives, even unto death.

(Rev 12:11) “And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.”

Third, **we must not be ashamed of the gospel.** A number of years ago we watched the movie, “A Walk To Remember.” It was about a high school girl named, Jamie Sullivan, that had leukemia. It was a very touching movie. Mandy Moore played the part of the girl with leukemia. Jamie’s father is the pastor of a church, and Jamie is not popular among the other students. Landon Carter, played by Shane West, is a popular young man who takes a liking to Jamie. He is meeting with her privately. One day he is in the hallway at school with other kids and Jamie walks by. As Jamie approaches Landon, she says, “Hey Carter, Will I see you after school?” Landon answers her, “In your dreams.” He denied being a friend of her to be cool and accepted by the other kids. Later on, he goes to her house. “Hey Jamie, open the door. Listen Jamie, I was hoping we could...” “We could be secret friends...” “Exactly, you’re reading my mind.” “Maybe you could read mine.” (And she shuts the door in his face.) Landon had denied knowing Jamie. Peer pressure got him. He felt ashamed and did not want them knowing that he was a friend.

Paul wrote in Romans 1:16 that he was not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

(Rom 1:16) “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

3. Beaten and Blasphemed

First, Jesus was betrayed. Second, His disciples and the men He had poured Himself into for the past three years denied Him. What next? Third, Jesus was blasphemed. Luke tells us that those who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking Him and beating Him.

(Luke 22:63-64) “Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking Him and beating Him, {64} and they blindfolded Him and were asking Him, saying, "Prophecy, who is the one who hit You?"

Matthew gives us a more descriptive account of what they were doing to Him. He says they spat in His face. Spitting in someone's face was what they did for someone who was being shamed. It was a way of showing total disgust for doing shameful deeds. Jesus had not done anything shameful, but He was being spat upon. Matthew also says that some beat Him with their fists while others slapped Him. He also records that they mocked Him, saying, “prophecy to us, You Christ; who is the one who hit You?” This is the same Jesus that just put Malchus' ear back on and healed him after Peter had whacked it off. This is the same Jesus that the multitudes had yelled out praise because of all the miracles that He had performed.

(Matt 26:67-68) “Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped Him, {68} and said, "Prophecy to us, You Christ; who is the one who hit You?"

This is the same Jesus that had told His disciples exactly what was going to happen to Him before any of it happened. He could have easily prophesied and told them who it was that was hitting Him. He could have told them much more than that. He could have begun writing in the sand like He did with the woman that they had brought in for adultery. In Luke's account, He added that they first blindfolded Him. They didn't realize that **Jesus saw in the Spirit, not in the natural**. It did not matter at all that they had blindfolded Him.

Finally, Luke tells us they said many other things against Him, blaspheming. This is a transliterated word, meaning that we simply took the Greek word and made it an English word. The Greek word is blasphemo, which means to speak evil against or to slander. The root word is pheme, which means a report or saying. Slander is simply giving a bad report about someone. It is making someone look worse in the eyes of another person. The Scribes, Pharisees, Saducees, and officers were speaking evil and slandering Him.

(Luke 22:65) “And they were saying many other things against Him, blaspheming.”

Blaspheming: G987, blasphemeo, to slander or speak evil

From my perspective, of the three things, betrayal, denial, and slander, the most damage has come

from the slander. I have seen churches split. I have seen friendships torn apart. I think slander is probably the most common. Church, **we must be committed to honoring one another**, not tearing down one another. Not only do we need to honor one another, **we need to protect the honor of others.**

In Proverbs we find that one who spreads slander is a fool. It also says that **a slanderer separates intimate friends.** I have seen it separate intimate friends in churches. It causes division more than anything else that I know of. We must be so careful about slander.

(Pro 10:18) “He who conceals hatred has lying lips, And he who spreads slander is a fool.”

(Pro 16:28) “A perverse man spreads strife, And a slanderer separates intimate friends.”

In Romans 1, Paul talks about unbelievers. He mentions a number of sins that are not proper. This list includes, wickedness, greed, evil, envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice, gossip, slander, hating God, arrogance, etc. Slander is in that list of horrible things. Notice that Paul says that those who practice such things are worthy of death. Who was slandering Jesus? It was the religious leaders. Who was being put to death? Jesus, who was innocent of all things, was being put to death by people who were guilty, and worthy of being put to death. Jesus, who knew no sin, was made sin on our behalf so that we could become the righteousness of God in Him.

(Rom 1:28-32) “And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, {29} being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, {30} slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, {31} without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; {32} and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.”

Conclusion

As we come to a close today, Paul tells us to consider the members of our earthly body as dead to sin. Instead, He tells us to put off the old self. We are to put aside slander and abusive speech. We are encouraged to put on the new self. **We must put off the old self and put on the new self.**

(Col 3:5-10) “Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry...{8} But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. {9} Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, {10} and have put on the new self...”

Why do we consider our members as dead to sin? It happens through baptism. When we are baptized, we are baptized into Jesus’ death. We are buried with Him through baptism. Then, just as Jesus was raised from the dead, we are raised up out of the water into newness of life. Those who have crucified, buried, and raised up are set free from sin. God wants you and I free from sin. He wants us free from betrayal. He wants us free from denial. He wants us free from blaspheme and slander. He wants us free from sin so that we can love Him and love one another with a pure heart.

(Rom 6:3-7) “Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? {4} Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. {5} For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, {6} knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; {7} for he who has died is freed from sin.”

Donald is going to share a few minutes with us about baptism before we head over to the Best Western in Moriarty for a baptismal service.

Let's pray.

Introduction (Luke 22:47-65)**1. Betrayed** (Luke 22:47-53, 18:31-33, Judges 14:12-13, 15-18)

Some people betray out of _____.

Some people betray out of _____. (Judges 16:4-5, 16:15-19, Matt 26:14-16, John 12:4-6)

We need to choose our _____ carefully.

Some of the hardest betrayals to take are from those we _____. (Psa 41:9, Luke 22:47-48)

When betrayed, we must _____ ourselves to our Father. (Luke 22:47-48, 1 Chron 12:16-17)

In these last days, many will fall away and _____ one another. (Matt 24:9-10, Acts 9:26-28)

When betrayed:

- A. _____ to the Lord.
- B. _____ a pure heart. (1 Pet 1:22)

2. Denied (Luke 22:54-62, Matt 26:31)

Confessing our sins is simply _____ with God that we have sinned.

Jesus _____ Peter to his calling to ministry. (John 21:15-17)

If we _____ Him before men, He will _____ us before the Father in heaven. (Matt 10:32-33, 2 Tim 2:12-13)

We can also deny God by our _____. (Titus 1:16, Jude 1:4)

- A. We need _____ boldness. (Acts 4:29-31)
- B. We must share our _____. (Rev 12:11)
- C. We must not be _____ of the gospel. (Rom 1:16)

3. Beaten & Blasphemed (Luke 22:63-65, Matt 26:67-68, Rom 1:28-32)

Jesus saw in the _____, not in the natural.

Blaspheme means to speak evil against or to _____. (Luke 22:65)

We must be committed to _____ one another.

We need to _____ the honor of others.

A slanderer _____ intimate friends. (Pro 10:18, 16:28)

Conclusion

We must _____ the old self and _____ the new self. (Col 3:5-10, Rom 6:3-7)

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