

Betrayed for Thirty, but We Do It for Free

By: David Burruss

Every time I read about Judas betraying Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, something inside me flares up. Anger. Frustration. How could he? After walking with Jesus, witnessing miracles, and hearing every word from the mouth of the Son of God, he sold Him out. For what? A few coins jingling in a bag.

It makes my blood boil. I'd never do that. That's what I tell myself. I'd never betray Jesus like that. But then, I start to think a little deeper.

Judas did it for silver. We do it for sleep.

He got paid. We do it for free.

Let's be honest. We skip church for a fishing trip. We miss worship because our team plays an early game. We pass on time with the Lord because we'd rather sleep in or hit the woods before sunrise. No money changes hands, but our loyalty sure does.

And it's not just about Sundays. We trade time in prayer for scrolling our phones. We leave our Bibles closed because we're "too busy" bingeing shows. We choose not to forgive someone because holding onto the grudge feels better, even though Jesus already paid the price for their sin and ours. When it really sinks in, it's humbling.

Luke 22:48 records Jesus' words to Judas in the garden. "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" It wasn't just the betrayal. It was how personal it was. A kiss. A sign of closeness, twisted into a moment of ultimate disloyalty.

And when we look closely, our betrayals are personal too. Jesus gave everything for us. His love, His time, His very life. And still, we so often give Him what's left over, if anything at all. But here's the beauty. Jesus knew Judas would betray Him. He still washed his feet. He still shared the bread. He still went to the cross.

So when we recognize those moments when we've given Him the short end of our attention, affection, or obedience, it's not to drown in guilt. It's to return with a tender, humbled heart. It's to say, "Lord, I've failed You for far less than thirty pieces of silver. But thank You for never failing me."

Let's learn from Judas. Not just in horror at his betrayal. But in awareness of how subtly our own hearts can wander. And let's choose today to stay close, not with empty gestures, but with real devotion.