

## Betrayal

Written and typed: 4/12/25

- My favorite game (excluding sports) – videogame or otherwise is Betrayal
  - I've played it for years – I own a copy
  - We used to play in college frequently
  - The premise is that you are a group of explorers who are exploring an abandoned spooky house
  - You journey through different rooms in the basement, main floor, and upstairs
  - Sometimes when you open rooms, the rooms will trigger events
  - And at some point, one of the explorers will become a traitor – making the game explorers vs traitor
  - Good vs evil is the context of this game like so many other games, movies, etc.
  - But this is just a game
  - This game is only popular because treason is a real offense
- We can all think of infamous traitors over the course of history and how society looks at them (not very favorably)
  - Society tends to look at these folks as if they're equal or worse than a murderer
  - Brutus & Cassius
    - Roman politicians who were close friends of Caesar's
    - Even though they were loyal to Pompey in the civil war between Caesar & Pompey, Caesar won
    - These 2 men still viewed Caesar as a threat and they assassinated him – you can argue whether or not these guys are actually traitors, but many people would argue that they are
  - Benedict Arnold
    - This guy is synonymous with treason – this was probably the first person you thought of
    - During the American Revolution, he originally fought for the Americans – he was a general
    - But his allegiance was to the British
    - He had plans to surrender the fort at West Point, NY to the British until his plans were discovered and he fled to the British army
    - Where he eventually led troops against the American troops over which he previously presided
  - Aaron Burr
    - How he had plans to lead a secession of a portion of the Louisiana Purchase from the US, and make it an independent republic
  - Judas
    - How he got to walk & talk with Christ Himself while He was on earth as a man
    - John 20:30-31 – *“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may*

*believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name."*

- John 21:25 – *"And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen."*
- We have more than enough documentation in God's Word to prove to us that Jesus is the Christ
- And the funny thing is that if we think this is impressive – we have only but a fraction of the things that Jesus did while on earth
- Judas would have seen the biggest part of this – the biggest part of the events that John refers to in John 21 that Jesus did during His ministry
- And yet, Judas did not see this and believe
- He saw this as a chance to make money – not get rich, but make a little bit of money
- And he betrayed the Son of God to the Jews for 30 pieces of silver
- I can't be for certain, but some historians estimate this to be worth no more than \$100 dollars using modern terms
- We look at these folks and think "that would never be me"
- And maybe you're right – you and I would likely never plot to assassinate someone, nor betray our country to the extent that some have, and we certainly wouldn't hand Christ over to be killed directly like Judas did
- We look at Adam & Eve in the garden
  - Genesis 2:16-17 – *"And the Lord God commanded man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.'"*
  - A message that he clearly relayed to Eve based on her reaction to the serpent in chapter 3
  - They had access to the tree of life – they could have lived forever had they just listened
  - **Genesis 3:1-6**
  - We all would have made the same mistake
  - 1 act of disobedience is all it took – and God banished them from the garden (Genesis 3:23-24)
  - We all would have behaved the same way that these 2 did because we all have
  - James 2:10 – *"For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all."*
  - 1 sin – 1 act of disobedience is all it took for us to betray Christ and put Him on the cross
- And even then, we didn't put Him on the cross – He went there
  - He allowed Himself to be put on the cross
  - John 19:11 – *"Jesus answered, 'You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.'"*
  - Matthew 26:53 – *"Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?"*
  - Christ was in full control physically – but spiritually He knew that He had no choice

- Spiritually – we put Christ on the cross
- If He didn't go to the cross, then we'd be lost spiritually
- It was us who betrayed Him
- Rather than punishing us, He took the punishment on our behalf
- Isaiah 53:6 – *“All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”*
- And what's even more amazing is that there was never any doubt in His mind as to what He was going to do with God's plan of redemption for lost man
  - He knew His role and His execution was simply not going to be denied
  - Revelation 13:8 – *“All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb **slain from the foundation of the world.**”*
  - There was literally never any doubt in His mind
  - Philippians 2:8 – *“And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”*
  - The cross – the very symbol of pain, shame, and rejection
  - That's the way the Romans used it, that's the way other nations used crucifixion as well
  - Josephus describes crucifixion as *“...a most miserable death...”* (*Wars of the Jews*, Book 7, Chapter 6, verse 4)
    - Think of this – of all the Roman torture methods, Josephus describes crucifixion as the worst one
    - This speaks volumes because the Romans had many other forms of brutal torture – things that we would not even think of doing today
  - Hebrews 12:2 – *“looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*
    - Christ knew what the cross symbolized
    - And He despised it's shame
    - And not only did He endure it, but He did so joyfully
    - Because He knew that He was our only chance
    - 1 John 3:16, 4:7-10 – *“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”*
    - God is love, so therefore everything He does is done out of love
    - And this is love: He laid down His life for us, God sent His Son that we may have life through Him who made Himself as one with no reputation (Philippians 2:7)
  - Romans 5:6-8 – *“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*
- Christ suffered the penalty of our betrayal

- I will draw 4 points from Jude 24 for you based on the premise that we've been discussing
- Jude 24
- #1 – Christ is **ABLE** to accomplish the redemption of mankind
  - Psalm 89:14 – *“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.”*
    - Mankind has some good traits and some bad traits
    - But not God – He only has good traits
    - He is righteousness, justice, mercy, and truth
    - We are filthy rags by our own merit (Isaiah 64:6)
    - The prodigal son in Luke 15 learned this the hard way
    - He took his inheritance into the world, and what did he find?
    - Luke 15:16 – *“...no one gave him anything.”*
      - This far country that this prodigal son journeyed to wouldn't help him in his time of need
      - That's what mankind will do to you
      - The world showed this son no kindness whatsoever – they just showed him pain and disappointment
      - But that's what he wanted for a time
    - The Father was quite the opposite to him though
    - Despite his poor judgment and his poor actions – the Father welcomed him home
  - 1 John 2:2 – *“And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”*
    - God is love (even the world knows that) – but the world takes this out of context
    - Because God is love, He is also righteousness, justice, mercy, and truth
    - One cannot be those things and excuse sin
    - I cannot say that I represent justice if I know someone has stolen money from the bank and I do nothing about it
    - Justice demands that the penalty be paid
    - Romans 6:23 – *“For the wages of sin is death,...”*
    - Adam & Eve committed the crime, we committed the crime – we have got to pay the price for that
    - But Christ did so on our behalf
    - He is the propitiation for our sins
    - But not only ours – the whole world's
  - He is able to wash away my sins
- #2 – Christ is **ABLE** to guard us from stumbling
  - 1 John 1:7 – *“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”*
    - If we were to try and achieve perfection by our own means – we would fail miserably
    - We've all sinned – if you say you haven't, then you're lying (1 John 1:8)
    - But Christ gave us an example to follow
    - We can keep our eyes on Him and by doing so, He will guard us from stumbling

- We use various methods today to teach our children how to walk
      - You can easily picture a father holding the hands of his child above the child's head as the child takes steps
      - The father is there for support, for stability, teaching the child how to walk – as the child develops the strength in his/her own legs
    - Hosea 11:3-4 – *"I taught Ephraim to walk, Taking them by their arms; But they did not know that I healed them. I drew them with gentle cords, With bands of love, And I was to them as those who take the yoke from their neck. I stooped and fed them."*
      - God is saying "I did that for Israel. I taught them how to walk."
      - Yet they took that, and walked away from Me
    - Christ taught us how to walk
      - Not only did He tell us how to, but He demonstrated it
      - Be yoked with Him and He will not allow you to stumble (Matthew 11)
      - 1 John 2:6 – *"He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."*
      - We ought to walk as He walked – we ought to follow His example
      - He isn't going to force us, it is our choice
      - Israel walked away from God, and we can do the same thing
      - Or we can keep our eye on Him and He will guard us from stumbling
- #3 – Christ provides complete **ATONEMENT**
  - He is able to present us faultless
  - Isaiah 59:1-2 – *"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, hat it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear."*
    - It was us that betrayed Him
    - It was our sins that forced Jesus to go to the cross
    - It wasn't His own sins – He had no sins (Hebrews 4:15)
    - Yet through His sacrifice, He provides complete atonement for us
  - Romans 5:1 – *"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,"*
    - We have been justified of all of our sins
    - We're guilty – but not in God's sight
    - Mankind has trouble forgetting things sometimes
    - In Christ, we all have a past worth forgetting, but a future worth finding
    - Hebrews 8:12 – *"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."*
    - Complete atonement
  - Hebrews 7:27 – *"...for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself."*
    - Unlike the imperfect Levitical High Priests, Christ is our High Priest
    - And He provides complete atonement – once and for all
- #4 – through all of this, we can be filled with joyous **ADULATION**

- Revelation 1:5 – *“and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,”*
  - He has washed us with His blood – what joy we can have
  - How great thou art
- 1 John 4:17 – *“Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.”*
  - We can approach judgment with exceeding joy
  - We can approach judgment boldly
  - We do not have to tremble in fear like the rest of the world does
  - When we’ve been obedient to God, God isn’t going to see us
  - He isn’t going to see our own merit which amounts to nothing – He’s going to see the blood of Christ that washes away our sins
  - They’re gone – He remembers them no more
  - Revelation 14:13 – *“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”*
  - Heaven is where God is – I want that
  - But I don’t deserve it – Christ says don’t worry about that, I’ve taken care of you
  - Just do as I have done – walk as I walked
- 2 Corinthians 5:10 – *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”*
  - And on that day of judgment, we can hear *“Well done, good and faithful servant; Enter into the joy of your lord.”*
  - Because despite all of our weaknesses, His grace is sufficient for you (2 Corinthians 12)
  - Of this, we can be exceedingly joyous

- **Jude 25**

- Praise God that all of this is possible
- How great thou art
- Despite Adam & Eve’s betrayal in the garden, and despite our betrayal in the form of sin – God has made a way for us to be redeemed
  - There’s a great day coming as we sometimes sing
  - That means different things depending on your response to God’s plan of salvation
  - If you have not been obedient, the time is now
  - Today is the day of salvation if this is your case
- **Step 1: Hearing the gospel** – *Romans 10:13-17*
  - Gospel = Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried, arose, and appeared to many – *1 Corinthians 15:1-8, Romans 1:16*
- **Step 2: Believing the gospel** – *Mark 16:16*
- **Step 3: Confession that Jesus is Lord** – *Romans 10:8-10*
- **Step 4: Repentance of sins** – *Luke 13:3*
  - Repentance: a turning away from sin, disobedience, or rebellion and a turning back to God. Change of mind that produces a change in action.
- **Step 5: Baptism into Christ** – *Galatians 3:27, Acts 2:38*

- Baptism: immerse or submerge
- **Step 6: Live faithfully** – *Revelation 2:10*