

THE JUDAS KISS

Matthew 26:47-50

Introduction: All who are familiar with the New Testament know of how one of Jesus' closest followers, one of His disciples (Judas) betrayed him by identifying Him with a kiss so He could be captured and carried away to His death. Today's television has many programs about traitors, spies, and such, so we are familiar with betrayals, openly and secretly. Sadly the Churches of today have many "Judas" among their members. Men and women who appear to be one thing for the Lord but inwardly they are not what they want others to think they are.

I. A TRAITOR "SELLS" HIS/HER LORD

1. A traitor is a person who has identified him/herself with the Lord Jesus, a Church member even.
2. A traitor prefers his/her own interests before those of the Lord.
3. A traitor is like Judas or Esau in being willing to trade loyalty for "..what will you give...?"
4. A traitor "kisses" the Lord in public but has already sold the Lord for:
 - a business
 - a farm
 - a job
 - a trip
 - hurt feelings
 - friends
 - a leisure time
 - reputation
5. A traitor still believes he/she is a good "Christian," follower of the Lord.

II. THE PLAIN "BACKSLIDER"

1. The plain "backslider" is one who renounces his/her Lord.
2. He/she believes the Bible.
3. He/she has practiced it.
4. He/she has tasted heavenly things (been blessed)
5. However the backslider isn't active in Church things anymore:
 - doesn't attend
 - doesn't study his/her Bible
 - doesn't pray
 - has no interest in his/her church at all
6. He/she still "kisses" the Lord in public, when around others, but has renounced Him in private.
7. He/she believes him/herself to still be a "fair" Christian.

III. THE HYPOCRITE

1. Thy hypocrite is one who dishonors the Lord Jesus.
2. He/she is active in his/her Church.
3. He/she is very religious on the Lord's Day.
4. He/she wears a "mask" of a Christian around other Christians, but takes it off when away.
5. He/she has worldly habits.
6. He/she calls the Lord, "Lord."
7. He/she kisses the Lord Jesus in Church but dishonors Him when away.
8. Worst of all his/her "Christian life" is all a pretense.

CONCLUSION:

1. Every person will answer to God in person, all by him/herself.
 - The traitor with his/her kiss who sells the Lord for something the world offers.
 - The backslider with his/her kiss who renounces the Lord.
 - The hypocrite with his/her kiss of pretending and dishonor.
2. Every person will live throughout Eternity.
 - Some will be sent to Hell for unbelief in Jesus Christ.
 - Some will go to heaven for their belief in Jesus Christ.
3. Three "pretenders" to love Jesus have been shown. Are you among any of these three? Or do you really love the Lord Jesus and your life shows it?