



Rev. F. T. Wright.

THE SIN OF BETRAYAL.

The value of the Scriptures and narratives which the Bible contains, lies in the application which they make to humanity, and the good which they seek to produce.

As in water face answereth to face, so the Bible being a perfect mirror, all man has to do is to look into the perfect law of liberty and there he will behold his image.

Now as the sin of betrayal is prevalent everywhere, (I mean from a religious standpoint), it would be well for us to turn our attention to the Bible and see what God thinks of it, and consider the enormity of such a crime.

I suppose we could find no better narrative or truer picture of this sin, than in the person of Judas Iscariot; but for us to see the position an individual must hold in order to be a traitor, we must needs consider the place that Judas occupied as well as the sin he committed.

The earliest account we have of Judas, is when he is numbered with the twelve apostles. Luke tells us in the first chapter of Acts, that when Peter made his plea for one to take the place of Judas, that he was numbered with us and had obtained part of this ministry; again when Peter prayed for one to take his place, he said, "that he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell." So then we have to place him as a disciple of Jesus Christ, of all positions that is possible for men and women of this world to hold, there is none more blessed and majestic which offers greater and more lasting rewards than the position of being a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. It means to know him as a personal saviour, to follow him and learn of him; also to talk and walk with him, is this not the highest position that men may possibly hold in this life?

But right here the law of cause and effect plays an active part with Judas in regard to the future of his career; and what is the cause? Carnality, we believe is the cause; if we believe that the disciples at Pentecost were delivered from this principle, would we not believe that Judas possessed it as well as they?

Judas was the treasurer of the disciple band, and doubtless handled the funds of the little company; Satan took advantage of the position he held, and soon Judas was allowing a thirst, a longing for money to crowd out his spiritual life, and robbing him of his fellowship with Jesus. When Mary anointed the feet of Jesus with costly ointment, the lust of money had gotten such a hold on Judas that he was all out of harmony with a deep devo-

tional service. The next time we see Judas is at the time Satan seems to have fully entered his heart and he went out and covenanted with Christ's enemies to deliver him unto them for thirty pieces of silver.

From this place on events follow in rapid succession in his life which was nearer to an earthly close than probably he expected.

Next we see him heading a mob, and in reality betraying Jesus; then follows the event when he rushed in and threw down the price he received for Jesus. He seems to have hurried out and hanged himself, thus came to the tragic end the betrayer of Jesus.

Men do not backslide quickly as the general rule; first it is a carnal impulse or desire from within or an evil suggestion from without; this heeded and harbored and the person begins to lose interest in Christ and religious things, until they will openly criticise those who are bestowing their richest gifts of devotion on Jesus Christ, this spirit of criticism of deeply religious services is more apt to be found in such individuals as once knew the fellowship of Jesus.

How true it is that men do not consider the outcome of their sin as God sees it; they generally pass the matter over lightly as though it were a trifling thing to break with God.

Judas saw a chance to get some money, he didn't care just how, so he went to the enemies of Christ and sold his Lord he doubtless thought that Christ would deliver himself when the hour of arrest would come as he had delivered himself on former occasions; thus the love of money is the root of all evil.

Like Judas there are thousands of souls today who for money, for pleasure, for fame or something else of this world they leave Christ and join his foes, and they are Christ's direst enemies, who are first to nail with the greatest enthusiasm such individuals. They sell their Christ cheaply, and become the leaders of the murderous mob, which are seeking to put out of existence Christianity.

But this is not all. Man's soul is like a great reservoir, and Judas sees Jesus cruelly treated and condemned and now they are preparing to lead Jesus away to crucify Him; and memory with the speed of lightening flashes back over the few years since he first joined the disciple band, he remembers the spotless life and character of the one whom he has betrayed, and also his ministry of benedictions and tears; preaching the gospel to the poor and healing the sick and raising the dead; and now that he has betrayed innocent blood and it gathers like a great tempest in the western skies. The voice that called the dead forth now speaks with majesty; and the words which were once a benediction now are the mutterings of God's eternal wrath, and the tempest breaks in a terrific storm of sorrow, remorse, regret and guilt and he is plunged into a terrible state of mind, where the flames of damnation are already kindled, only to be fed by memory.

He rushed in and threw down the money; it was the price of blood; it was the price of his own soul, he had purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; but Christ's enemies had no comfort nor rest for him and in the height of his despair he rushed out and committed suicide, thus came to a tragic end the one who once knew his Christ and sold him for thirty pieces of silver; and shall it not be the case with all such individuals, who sell their Lord; the fact of the matter is that in the final analysis it is soul suicide.

We need your renewal for the Highway now. March April and May are our hard months.

GOLDEN WEDDING.

We are assured that all of our readers will join in hearty congratulation of our dear Brother and Sister the Rev. and Mrs. J. J. Colter, who recently celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in the Methodist Church at Fredericton.

Brother and Sister Colter have visited Beulah Camp Meeting several times, and retain a deep interest in the spiritual welfare of all.

The following address was presented to them, and a very pleasant evening was spent by a large number of their friends from all the evangelical churches of the city:

The following is a copy of the address: "To the Rev. John J. Colter, S.T.B., and Mrs. Colter:

"On behalf of the Methodist people of Fredericton, the official board of the church congratulates you on having attained the completion of fifty years of wedded life. We believe you have learned together that the true secret of happiness lies in loving God and serving your fellow-men, and we rejoice that with a fair degree of health and strength, and with the prospect of many bright days still before you.

"We desire to take this opportunity of expressing the confidence and esteem in which both of you are held by this church and congregation and the community at large. We thank you for the help you have rendered to the Methodist Church in Fredericton during the many years you have dwelt among us. The giving up of the active work of the ministry meant in your case no cessation of Christian toil, and successive pastors of this church have had abundant reason to thank God for your cheerful, efficient and ready help in the pastoral care of a heavy circuit.

"In visiting the families of the congregation you have brought comfort and courage into many lives, and in the different institutions of the city your constant aid has been unstintedly given, while we can assure you that your many and faithful services to the soldiers stationed in the city have been greatly appreciated.

"The temperance cause in Fredericton and the Province of New Brunswick owes much to your earnest and unselfish efforts, and from your zeal for the great missionary enterprise we have drawn steady inspiration. You have indeed set us a beautiful example of Christian culture founded on a true balance of brain and heart, devoting your wide knowledge and your literary talents as well as your spiritual energies to the service of humanity.

"It is without doubt a source of great thankfulness to both of you that each has been able to help the other, and that, inspired by the same lofty purpose, you have been able to accomplish far more for the kingdom of God together than you could ever have done apart. It is our hope that you may be long spared to one another and to the church, and that the glow from this golden wedding may always follow you; so that you may know the truth of the word 'at evening time it shall be light.'

"Signed,

THOS. MARSHALL,

Pastor.

JOHN J. WEDDALL,

Recording Steward.

"Fredericton, Feb. 13, 1916."