

## What's In This Kiss Matt.26:47-50

My brothers and sisters, as we move into the Easter season, we need to look at the reason for such celebration, because something beyond miraculous took place during this time. Also because of a single event so devious that the heavens and the earth cried out.

And the GOD of heaven was so hurt by this event that he took it out on himself. This is the second major event where GOD was betrayed in person by his children. Do you hear me?

Because when we read this scripture, we see the betrayal of our Lord Jesus, by his follower Judas. But my question to you today is anything else happening here? Because church as we look at this kiss, we see many years and even centuries coming to pass.

I need to first do some definitions here, are there different kinds of kisses? Well some kisses are defined in the dictionary this way: a kiss on the hand, a kiss on the jaw, and a kiss on the lips, can be used as a greeting, as affection and as desire. The kiss starts from the lips of a person.

So, my brothers and sisters, when Judas kissed Jesus what kind of kiss was it? I would like to ask, if it was a kiss and tell, a kiss good bye, a kiss of betrayal, a kiss of death or was it all four. Let me ask you, what do we know about this kiss?

Well, we know that it wasn't a kiss of peace, a kiss of friendship on Judas's part, and finally we know that it wasn't a kiss of love. But, my brothers and sisters, I ask you could it have been a kiss of life? So, I ask again what was the purpose of this kiss?

Because when we look at the chronology of these events they take us back to the last supper and beyond, they tell us that this kiss would be a signal of betrayal, and would also take us back to the Garden of Eden and the hiss of the snake. That there would be money given to the betrayer, that the Savior of the world would be sold for thirty (30) pieces of silver, not much more than the price of a slave or a sheep, during this time in Biblical history.

But, my brothers and sisters how was the thirty pieces of silver arrived at. Well when we look at the Book of Zechariah 11:12-13, which tells us especially about the handsome price that they paid. “I told them; if you think it best, give me my pay. But if not, keep it, so they paid me thirty (30) pieces of silver.”

And the Lord said to me, “Throw it to the potter, the handsome price at which they priced me!” So, I took the thirty (30) pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord to the potter.”

Matthew 27:9 also tells us that, “Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, and they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of HIM, who was priced when the children of Israel priced, and gave them to the potter’s field as the LORD directed me. (JER.32: 6-9)

We now know where the price comes from and also why Judas threw it back, but now, we also know that Judas wanted to force Jesus Christ /GOD’S hand by the kiss to bring his Kingdom into being before he was ready.

My brothers and sisters, again we see Satan trying to force GOD to go against his will. This was also another attempt to be little GOD in our eyes. The first being the betrayal in the Garden of EDEN.

But, let tell you, my brothers and sisters, Satan only played into GOD’S hand by the unexplained, underhanded actions of Judas. Jesus’ arrest and the ensuing passion, events would not have reflected the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies so completely, a point that Matthew makes and Jesus confirms by his arrest.

“But all of this is done that the scripture of the prophets might be fulfilled.” (Matt.26:56)

My brothers and sisters, we see that before Judas and the religious leaders arrived that throughout the night in the darken shadows of GETHSAMENE, where the prophets of old came and had ministered UNTO him, Jesus the Savior of the world wrestled with self interest over Heavenly interest and finally removed his choice in favor of Heavenly choice.

The light of the world dimmed but did not go out. Again GOD'S LOVE WINS OUT. So by the time that Judas arrives with the arresting officials, we see that Jesus had sweat running from his body in blood, without the issue of blood there can be no remission of sin.

But we now know that GOD wanted more from the Son than what went on in the garden of GETHSAMENE. He had more than sin on his mind, and it had to do with the hiss of death back in the Garden of EDEN. The kiss of death had to be destroyed. By one man came death and by another man death was removed.

My brothers and sisters, GOD, himself had to show us his complete love, just how far he was willing to go for our love. Because when we look back at the scene of his arrest, we see that the disciples ran away, deserting him. WE have run away too! Have we not!

All he wanted was their support which they would not give, all he wanted was their comfort, which they would not give, all he wanted was their attention, which they would not give, and all he wanted was their prayers, which they would not give.

They did not seem to understand, what he was going through, what he was wrestling with and I'm still not sure if they would have complied with his request to watch and stay awake because of the powerful events taking place. "The spirit was willing, but the flesh was weak." Are we like that sometimes too?

Let us now pay attention to the two disciples, who actually betrayed him, Judas and Peter.

The Bible, tells us that the one who betrayed him once almost immediately regretted his action. He boldly marched back before the powerful, corrupt officials and proclaimed the innocence of Jesus, to their faces, and threw their money back in their faces for good measure, was showing remorse for his action.

While Peter, that other fallen disciple betrayed Jesus three times, like JESUS said he would. And yet Judas has been named throughout history, as the prime example of all that is contemptible, corruptible and deceitful in human nature.

I have a question for you. How many children do you know named Judas? While Peter on the other hand is designated a saint. How many children do you know named Peter?

My brothers and sisters, how did such a disparity of interpretation happen?

Well, maybe the simplest way to understand it is to look at the motives of these betrayers. Judas' treachery, we have declared was premeditated, calculated and even paid for.

Peter's action on the other hand was a cowardly, spontaneous burst of emotion that profited him nothing. But there remains the unpleasant fact that Matthew tells us about Judas and the blood money, trying to defend Jesus as being what he was and that is innocent of all charges place against him. It was Judas' duty to bring charges against JESUS.

In contract, Peter only sneaked back to the disciples as a mourner after the crucifixion frenzy had passed and the tomb was sealed days later. SO, what is the difference between the two?

MY brothers and sisters, the only difference between these two betrayers was their perception of how Jesus would see them. Judas was overcome with guilt, although according to Matt.27:3, he showed remorse and returned the money.

Judas could only envision a wrathful, judgmental Jesus declaring him cursed according to DEUTERONOMIC law, (Dt. 27:25/Matt.26:23-24), in accordance to human life, "CURSE IS THE ONE WHO TAKES A BRIBE TO SLAY AN INNOCENT PERSON.

AND IN MATTHEW" JESUS SAID, "THE SON OF MAN WILL GO JUST AS IT IS WRITTEN ABOUT HIM, BUT WOE TO THE MAN BY WHOM THE SON OF MAN IS BETRAYED! IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR THAT MAN IF HE HAD NOT BEEN BORN." But, my brothers and sisters, we must remember that GOD is a forgiving GOD.

So, in his despair, JUDAS blocked out JESUS' forgiving gesture in the garden, (Mt.26:50), when JESUS asked him, Friend, "why have you come?" Hearing only condemnation ringing in his ears, JUDAS cut himself

off from the healing capabilities of GOD'S grace and in an agonizing fit of self-judgment hanged himself.

But, my brothers and sisters, I want you to know that JUDAS did not do anything that every single one of us and every single one of the disciples did not do, when we forget just how great and forgiving that GOD really is.

But my brothers and sisters, JUDAS forgot one other thing, and it is the difference between life and death. He forgot that he was only one of a long line of established distinguished tradition of GOD'S failed faithful people.

We know that Moses did see the PROMISED LAND but not go, KING DAVID did many wrongs, THOMAS didn't believe JESUS, PAUL was a killer of believers. THEY ALL COMMITTED GRIEVOUS ACTS OF BETRAYAL AGAINST JESUS CHRIST, GOD ALMIGHTY and we have too .Amen Thank GOD for his mercy!

**BUT, THEY ALL FOUND THEIR WAY BACK TO GOD'S SIDE THOUGH THE OPEN DOOR OF FAITH DECLARING, "OH LORD OUR GOD HOW GREAT THY ARE" BUT, JUDAS DIED STIGMATIZED BY HIS OWN HEART AS A BETRAYER. WHY did he do that? BECAUSE HE NEVER EVEN TRIED TO OPEN THE DOOR!**

So, his final act of control was to take his own life, he never dared to check that door of grace that GOD always leaves unlocked and even pushes open for us most of the time, because we don't have the strength to open it or the power to keep it open long by ourselves. AMEN!

My brothers and sisters, he never knocked, he never asked, and he even stopped seeking. He didn't want the gift of grace. He wanted to control, to be in charge of the situation, with those thirty pieces of silver, in his pocket. Have you ever been like that? **WANTING TO CONTROL A SITUATION!**

MY brothers and sisters, JUDAS thought he could buy his way into GOD'S presence, as if by forcing JESUS' hand through the arrest, he would hurry and save his life by bring on the MESSIANIC AGE. **UNLESS WE FORGET, WE MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL.**

MY brothers and sisters, faced with the consequences of his big mistake JUDAS then sought to buy his way out of his betrayal by giving the money back. But he could not control the events set in motion by his simple act of betrayal because GOD was in total control and the hand had to be played out.

I want you to know that, PETER lived a life which showed that GOD'S acceptance of him was secure. That's why he returned to the upper room to wait for the word from the Lord. I ask you a question, do you live so that GOD will accept you, or do you live your life because GOD has accepted you in the NAME OF JESUS.

THE KISS WAS IMPORTANT BUT WHY?

SO, THAT GOD COULD SHOW US THAT HE HAD ACCEPTED US FROM THE BEGINNING, BUT WE BETRAYED HIM IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN WHEN BY THE HISS OF THE SERPENT, WE LEFT HIS LOVE FOR THE LIES OF SATAN.

NOW WITH THE KISS OF THE SERPENT, BY MAN, WE ARE RECONCILED BACK TO HIM THROUGH THE SON. AMEN. WE HAVE ACCEPTANCE

WE ARE HIS CHILDREN AND HE IS OUR FATHER "WHAT MANNER OF MAN IS THIS THAT HE WOULD LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP?" I DIE, "THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND LIFE MORE ABUNDANTLY."

NOW THEN, OUR JOB AS CHRISTIANS IS TO BE JUSTIFIED BY JESUS CHRIST IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WITH HEART BELIEF AND MOUTH CONFESSON, REALIZING THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND THE POWER HE PROVIDES RESULTS IN OBEDIENCE TO HIM.

WE HAVE RECEIVED FORGIVENESS AND ETERNAL LIFE BY GRACE, AND ARE NOW CHALLENGED DAILY TO LIVE THAT LIFE WITH HIS HELP, NOT IN A LEGALIZED WAY, WITH A LOT OF DO'S AND DON'TS.

BUT BECAUSE WE DO BELIEVE THAT GOD FORGIVES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.WHICH WAS DONE IN THE GARDEN OE GETHSAMENE AND UP ON THE CROSS.

WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT JESUS CHRIST MADE US ALL WHOLE BY THE KISS OF JUDAS. I'M NOT MAKING JUDAS A HERO, BECAUSE AS I HAVE TOLD YOU HE WAS A CROOK, WHO SEALED HIS OWN FATE.

THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT WITHOUT GOD'S WILL THERE CAN BE NO REMISSION OF SIN. AND WITHOUT THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD THERE WOULD BE NO REMISSION OF SIN.

I REMEMBER THAT JESUS WAS SWEATING BLOOD IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSAMENE AS HE PRAYED, I REMEMBER THAT HE TALKED TO MOSES AND ELIJAH ONE NIGHT, AND LOOKED AS WHITE AND BRIGHT AS SNOW WHICH HE IS, NOT OF SNOW BUT WHITE AND BRIGHT.

I ALSO KNOW THAT IF THE DISCIPLES HAD SEEN HIM THEY WOULD HAVE DIED, BECAUSE OF HIS SPIRIT NATURE, SHINING IN ALL OF HIS GLORY.

I WANT TO ASK YOU WHAT KIND OF KISS DID YOU GIVE TO JESUS? WAS IT A KISS OF WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR ME LATELY, A KISS OF BETRAYAL, OR A KISS OF LOVE. IF IT WAS A KISS OF LOVE, WHAT KIND OF LOVE WAS IT? I GIVE YOU TWO KINDS OF LOVE KISSES. FALAYO OR AGAPE!

The one is worldly and the other is Heavenly.

I'M REMINDED NOW OF WHEN JESUS ASKED PETER DID HE LOVE HIM. JESUS ASKED HIM THREE TIMES, AND EACH TIME, PETER SAID YES, BUT I DON'T THINK THAT PETER GOT IT THE

FIRST OR THE SECOND TIME, BUT, BY THE THIRD TIME PETER BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND, WHAT KIND OF LOVE JESUS WAS TALKING ABOUT.

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS JESUS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE WORLD DID NOT PROCESS THE LOVE HE WAS SEEKING, BUT THAT HE WAS GIVING, LIKE THE KISS THAT HE GAVE TO THEM, BUT THEY DID NOT RETURN, TO HIM.

I ASK YOU NOW, COME TO THE ALTER WITH A KISS OF AGAPE LOVE, COME AND OPEN YOUR HEARTS IN LOVE TO THE TRUE LOVE. THE LOVE OF GOD BECAUSE THE SCRIPTURE TELLS US THAT GOD IS LOVED. ARE YOU WITH ME ON THIS LOVE?