

Sermon Reflections

The Kiss of Death • Matthew 26:47-56

Summary: Stick with such a faithful Savior who stayed the painful course to save you.

Jesus was:

1. Betrayed by a Friend (vv. 47–50)

- Recall the agony of the Garden we looked at last week that resulted in the determination of Jesus to do His Father's will -- “not as I will, but as you will.” Almost immediately came the pain of betrayal by a friend, which He saw coming, but embraced. Ps 55:12-14 tells of David's experience of a friend's betrayal that quite possibly mirrors our own experiences. How do we handle such contradiction? Does such experience offer us an opportunity to obediently walk by faith? What would that look like? (Rom 10:17; Matt 5:38 – 48)
- When suffering because of the betrayal of a friend, what encouragement do we have from Jesus that helps us stick with Him and not run?

2. Misunderstood by a Follower (vv. 51-54)

- Peter seems to have misunderstood what Jesus came to establish; a kingdom not of this world but a spiritual kingdom. So the establishment of that kingdom will be different from the world. Not built by the sword of man, but by the Sword of the Spirit; the Word of God. How do we do battle with the Word of God? What is our protection in battle? (Eph 6:10-18)
- His ways are not our ways and His thoughts not our thoughts. There will be times that we misunderstand what He is doing. Why should we stick with Jesus during those times? HOW do we do that?

3. Treated as a Fiend (vv. 55–56)

- As a bystander that night, what would you think is happening as you watch armed soldiers approach a group of men gathered together in a garden and at least one of them has a sword?
- The betrayal kiss of a friend, the armed band of soldiers with swords that apprehended Jesus, and the abandonment of Jesus by His disciples; are these simply chance events that occurred in the garden? Why or why not?
- What kind of encouragement can be drawn from your conclusion?