

What Do We Do About Judas? // {Pause} //

//

My denomination forces me to look the question of **Judas**

‘Face to face’ every Wednesday of Holy Week. //

It is an important question, which every Christian should consider

//

The fact is, that one of Jesus closest confidants, betrayed Jesus

To the authorities during Holy Week

//

Pastor Tim talked yesterday about betrayal, asking:

Has anyone ever been betrayed in their lives.

(And we were very quick to nod—yes, that’s me). //

And ‘Thanks be to God!’ Pastor Tim also alluded to the fact,

That each of us has betrayed God in some sort of way,

Each of us has betrayed each other in some sort of way, ///

(And although in our hearts we knew—**yes that’s me**

(We were probably a little less likely

(To own up to that fact...) //

Yet, each of our hearts were likely timidly screaming,

(Yes, /// Lord, /// My God, /// **I HAVE** FORSAKEN YOU!) //



My God My God, I have Forsaken You...

And my God, My God: I have Forsaken You, time and again!



Now, the real question, for each of us in that moment of forsakenness

During our truest acts of open rebellion against our Lord & Savior,

Should be: What do I do about my forsakenness now...//

What do I do, now that I know that despite sinning

Horrendously against all around me,

That I have sinned—in fact MOST

Grievously against God His Very Self.



As one of my favorite commentaries said about King David and

His sin against Bathsheba, Against Uriah, and Against Israel,

That the greatest of David's sins was his sin against God.

As it stated: If the gaze of a police officer, or the owner of a store,

Or the gaze of a fellow citizen, would prevent us from stealing

Or murder, or adultery, or you name the sin ... → → →

How much more should we prevented for any sin,

When we know that God, the all-knowing and all-powerful,

Is gazing upon us—and in fact for Christians—

That our God **actually**, dwells within us from the moment

We receive the Holy Spirit in our Baptism, and

As we are refreshed along the way, by

The Very Presence of Christ’s Body and Blood

In the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist!

////////////////////////////////////

But enough about the sin itself, **we already know that**

Without the grace of Christ’s blood, freely given on the cross,

We would be as white as a thick as a dirty MS mud creek.

Now that we know how deeply we **HAVE** sinned,

Each time we sin. What are we to do about it?

////////////////////////////////////

Well, we have a few options: I will discuss the two options taken:

By the betrayers of Jesus Christ leading up to his Crucifixion:

Judas and Peter.

////////////////////////////////////

Since our Gospel reading today is about Judas,

Let's get him out of the way;

(Besides I really don't want to dwell on his option).

////////////////////////////////////

When we sin (and we will sin, trust me!) We can rely on ourselves.

Take thing into our own hands, turn ourselves over to Satan,
And wallow in even greater sin.

Now, this is not the Christian response, but

We have all examined that response before,

Perhaps before realizing that all that we really needed

To do was to turn & tell Satan: "Get Behind Me."

"I am covered by the blood of the lamb, You ...

"And your guilt are not welcome here!"

////////////////////////////////////

For those of you who like Contemporary Christian Music:

I hope you hear a bit of Francesca Bet-tist-elli's: Break-Up Song, here

"Fear (& sin) you don't own me. There ain't no room in this story

"And I ain't got time for you: telling me what I'm not, like you

"know me, well guess what? I know who I am!"

I'm going to change the lyrics a bit: I am a child of the One True God!

////////////////////////////////////
//////////////////////////////////// {PAUSE} //////////////////////////////////////

That my dearest friends in Christ Jesus, is the response

We are commanded to give when ‘the accuser’ goes about
Playing his **one trick pony**, telling us we are unworthy.

Hey, Guess What, I know that already,

But I know someone who is worthy, AND HE!

Is who I place my trust in. **Now go away!**

‘Cause YOU don’t own me!

////////////////////////////////////
////////////////////////////////////

Now... OK... I know... it is not always that easy.

Sometimes, (perhaps even rightfully),

We know that we have done something really bad,

You know: Like denied Christ Three Times, OR

Sold Christ to the temple officials for crucifixion,

(Or sold Joseph as a slave),

(Or sinned against Uriah & Israel...) ...

I think you get it.

////////////////////////////////////

{PAUSE} Though we might have meant what we did for evil,

Or though we may have been afraid, or jealous, or

(As some might claim) wanted to force Jesus' hand.

The correct Christian response is to examine our lives & conduct,

By the rule of God's commandments, that we may perceive,

Wherein we have offended in what we have done or

Left undone, in thought word, or deed.

And after this examination, we are to acknowledge our sins

Before Almighty God

(Like Peter Did when Jesus asked him 3 times, do you love me).

And be ready to amend our lives,

And to make restitution for all injuries; AND

Be ready to forgive those who have offended you.

////////////////////////////////////

So, on this Holy Wednesday, when we are forced to examine

The actions of Judas in betraying his friend & Lord & Savior,

What are we to do with Judas? ????? ????? ?????

////////////////////////////////////



The answer lies at the intersection of repentance & forgiveness.

///// Even Forgiving Ourselves

/// As Christ forgives us, and paid the full price, for us.

////////////////////////////////////

In the name of the Father and of the Son,

And of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.