

A Tale of Two Betrayals

Passover, Jesus and his disciples are in the upper room and in one night, Jesus prophesies two betrayals and both take place. This night, they were all gathered, not really knowing this would be their last time together with Jesus.

Judas

The first betrayal was Judas and Jesus tells the group that one of them would betray Him and they all ask, "Is it I?" Then Jesus looks at Judas and tells him to do it quickly, so Judas left. Afterwards, Judas realized what was going to happen to Jesus and we pick up in this passage.

Matthew 27:3-10

When Judas, who had betrayed him, realized that Jesus had been condemned to die, he was filled with remorse. So he took the thirty pieces of silver back to the leading priests and the elders.

"I have sinned," he declared, "for I have betrayed an innocent man."

"What do we care?" they retorted. "That's your problem."

Then Judas threw the silver coins down in the Temple and went out and hanged himself.

The leading priests picked up the coins. "It wouldn't be right to put this money in the Temple treasury," they said, "since it was payment for murder."

After some discussion they finally decided to buy the potter's field, and they made it into a cemetery for foreigners.

That is why the field is still called the Field of Blood.

This fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah that says,

"They took the thirty pieces of silver—

the price at which he was valued by the people of Israel,

and purchased the potter's field,

as the LORD directed."

This was actually fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy found in Psalms 41:9.

Jesus quoted it in **John 13:18**,

“I am not saying these things to all of you; I know the ones I have chosen. But this fulfills the Scripture that says, ‘The one who eats my food has turned against me.’

But back in Matthew 27:3, we see that Judas was filled with remorse – this is the Greek word – G3338, Metanelomai, which actually means ‘regret.’

This is a different word, than the one Jesus used when he called for people to repent. You see, Judas could not feel true remorse because Satan had already entered him at the last supper (John 13:27)

Peter

At the last supper, Jesus shared the bread and the wine, then told the disciples that they would be offended because of Jesus that very night. Peter balked saying he would never be offended. Jesus corrected him and said that he, Peter, would deny him three times before the rooster crowed. Then Jesus takes some of them to the garden to pray and Judas came with guards and Jesus was arrested.

On the same night, Jesus was betrayed by two men who were close to Him.

Luke 22:54-62

So they arrested him and led him to the high priest’s home. And Peter followed at a distance.

The guards lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat around it, and Peter joined them there.

A servant girl noticed him in the firelight and began staring at him. Finally she said, “This man was one of Jesus’ followers!”

But Peter denied it. “Woman,” he said, “I don’t even know him!”

After a while someone else looked at him and said, “You must be one of them!”

“No, man, I’m not!” Peter retorted.

About an hour later someone else insisted, “This must be one of them, because he is a Galilean, too.”

But Peter said, “Man, I don’t know what you are talking about.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.

At that moment the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Suddenly, the Lord’s words flashed through Peter’s mind: “Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me.” And Peter left the courtyard, weeping bitterly.

Can you imagine how Peter must have felt? Seeing the man he had loved and followed for 3 years look at him after such an awful betrayal. However, we know that Peter truly repented because Jesus came to him later, after the resurrection, as Peter was fishing .

John 21:14-17

This was the third time Jesus had appeared to his disciples since he had been raised from the dead.

After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” Peter replied, “you know I love you.” “Then feed my lambs,” Jesus told him.

Jesus repeated the question: “Simon son of John, do you love me?” “Yes, Lord,” Peter said, “you know I love you.” “Then take care of my sheep,” Jesus said.

A third time he asked him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Then **feed my sheep.**”

I have heard it said that the reason Jesus asked him 3 times was once for each time he denied Jesus. But we can easily see the love they had for each other here. Jesus came to Peter in His resurrected form, and Peter’s heart was shifting, beginning to see Jesus as more than a friend, but King.

Then before Jesus ascended, Jesus told the disciples to go and wait for the ‘comforter.’ While praying, we see in Acts 2 that tongues of fire appeared, Pentecost happened, and Peter received the Holy Spirit. Afterwards he

preached, bringing thousands into the fold. During his ministry, he had to suffer a lot, but went throughout the country operating in signs and wonders, ministering Holy spirit to people in Kingdom power and authority.

So what is the difference here between the two men and their experiences? Let me lay some groundwork.

Last year, I taught a lot about the Kingdom of God/Heaven. It is because we are now in the Kingdom era, or epoch season.

You see, there are 2 kingdoms battling, Kingdom of God and Kingdom of darkness. Just like physical, earthly nations and we are either in one or the other. We can't be in both America and France at the same time. We are either in the Kingdom of God or the kingdom of darkness.

But There is a realignment happening. Many in the body of Christ are shifting more fully into God's Kingdom. When you truly recognize what kingdom you are of, that kingdom begins to take first place and everything else takes second place.

Early on in Jesus ministry, He began saying 'Repent for the Kingdom of God or Heaven' is at hand.

Mt 4:17 "From then on Jesus began to preach, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."

Mk 1:15 "The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"

These 3 words break down as follows:

1. *Repent* – G3340 – Mataneo; to change one's mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins
 - a. In other words, now you see things differently than you did before.
 - b. Remember, with Judas, the Greek word was remorse – G3338, metanelomai – which means 'regret.' Like being sorry you got caught.

2. *Kingdom* – G932 – **Basileia**; a kingdom, the territory subject to the rule of a king;
3. *At hand or near* – **Engizō**; to bring near, to join one thing to another
 - a. Jesus was saying that the Kingdom of God was ‘joining’ with the earthly realm.

In **Mark 1:15** it says ‘The time promised by God has come at last’ or in some versions ‘The time is fulfilled’. In other words, it is HERE, NOW, with HIM!

With Jesus arrival on the earth, or in our lives today, it means we can have a different world view because we can now access something we didn’t have previously - “Engizo” Joining one thing, our lives, to another, Kingdom of God.

It is a spiritual shift of spiritual citizenship, in a different kingdom, but due to lack of Kingdom teaching and understanding, many of us continue to live in a Kingdom we’ve been delivered from, the kingdom of darkness (remember, there are only two). This doesn’t mean we aren’t ‘saved’ it only means that we are living without ‘light’ of full understanding.

We continue to live in a place where we tend to act like He isn’t among us, like we are waiting on Him to come. But He is with us. Remember, He sent Holy Spirit to take His place when He left the earth.

We need to learn how to live from a different Kingdom, God’s kingdom.

However, within this Kingdom, there are 2 gospels at play though. The gospel of salvation and the gospel of His Kingdom.

We understand the gospel of salvation. This is preaching Christ crucified, the evangelical view. This is Jesus as my personal savior and friend.

Many evangelical churches stop here and it brings us into a very small framework of him, and it makes Jesus very personal and He is.

Unfortunately, this thinking and mindset ends up being a mindset of “Jesus what can you personally give me because you saved me?” or “What do I get from you?” He becomes a great vending machine in the sky. His word, the Bible, is our devotional grab bag and our comfort blanket. He is only our savior in this gospel, not really our Lord.

I grew up with this framework and lived most of my life in this mindset. But Jesus didn't come only to save us, if that is the only reason he came, we would have drowned at baptism. This posture, or belief system, gives us no idea of our position in heaven, in the Kingdom of God. When Jesus came, He was crucified, resurrected, then he ascended and went to the throne. This same process must take place for us as well.

In the gospel of salvation, we don't really press through to the resurrection and the ascension. The crucifixion is mortification of the body, sacrifice and sanctification. This is part of the salvation process.

However, often we don't press through into the resurrection which is new life. This part is representative of Jesus walking the earth in a new form. This is the process of further sanctification, working out our salvation, as Paul says. Getting rid of the old and coming more further into the new.

Then we need to press into the ascension. This is when Jesus went from walking through walls, ascended to heaven and took His place on the throne. Revelation 5-7 talk about his enthronement.

When we begin to understand this process in our own lives, we begin to move into the shift that Paul talks about in 2 Corinthians 3, where the veil lifts and we go from glory to glory.

After his crucifixion and resurrection, while he was walking the earth, he had not yet been enthroned. Once He is enthroned, He sends the Holy Spirit.

So if we don't ever get to that level of resurrection life and his enthronement in our life as LORD, fully surrendered to Him, the Holy Spirit doesn't come to us fully. But when we truly make Him Lord, completely, we receive Holy Spirit authority and power to do all He has called us to.

This is where the Kingdom comes in righteousness, peace and joy in our lives, in the Holy Spirit. The Holy spirit carries Kingdom into us and empowers us to rule and reign as priests and kings, declaring the Holy Nation of His Kingdom.

This is literally 'Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.' (Matt. 6:10)

The Gospel of the Kingdom is where we acknowledge Jesus fully as Lord and Savior. We often deny the Lordship part. That He is truly Lord of our lives.

In the gospel of salvation, we often minimize him, unintentionally, but with the gospel of the Kingdom we must bow very low where we acknowledge He is already Lord and King, and it is a very different posture than just Jesus is my savior.

But let's get back to Peter and Judas.

Judas fell to the gospel of salvation. Yes, I know 'salvation' during that time period wasn't a thing in the way we understand it today. But those who 'believed' were saved. However, because Judas minimized what Jesus was there to do, he limited his understanding to 'What can Jesus do for me?' And when Jesus didn't do what Judas thought he should, which was to be an earthly king to overthrow the current system, Judas became disillusioned and turned away, choosing to betray Jesus.

But Peter, was also disillusioned, which is why he denied Jesus. He had the same aspirations as did all of the disciples, but maybe he had begun to see that it might not go the way they wanted. However, Peter still 'believed' and chose to move through the gospel of 'salvation' through to the resurrection, and into 'enthronement' (Lordship), then being filled with the spirit, as we see in Acts 2, which brought him into the gospel of the Kingdom. Of course seeing Jesus in His heavenly form probably made it easy to see Him as Lord.

Yes, He messed up and betrayed Jesus. But he repented "Mataneo," and Jesus forgave him. . He pushed through to the resurrection, then Jesus enthronement as Lord. Because of his repentance and subsequent obedience, Peter was able preach with power signs and wonders.

So the process to get from gospel of salvation to gospel of the Kingdom is 'the cross (salvation), to the resurrection (process of sanctification) and enthronement (Lordship which brings fullness of Holy Spirit).

This is the process that gives us our authority as ambassadors of the Kingdom. This shifts us from just being saved into the power and authority we need to be Kingdom people, fulfilling all He has for us.