

## The Lord Looked at Peter

Տէրը Պետրոսին Նայեցաւ

Sermon series: Watch and Pray

### Luke 22: 47-62

Betrayal is an unpleasant reality. It happened to Jesus; it happens to all of us. If one of your own family betrays you, it is worse. The one who ate with you on the same table. The one close to you, betrayed you. The word betrayal appeared earlier in this chapter when the disciples of Jesus were having the Passover meal (Luke 22:21).

In today's passage we see the execution of the betrayal, with a kiss.

**While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, <sup>48</sup> but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" <sup>49</sup> And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" <sup>50</sup> And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. <sup>51</sup> But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. <sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? <sup>53</sup> When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness." (Luke 22:47-53 ESV)**

We have arrived at the dark hours.

#### - Kiss

Jesus asks: **"Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"**

Let me tell you in the Middle East men kiss men and women kiss women for a greeting. "The kiss, sign of affection, has become a sign of defection." **1 (NIV p571)** How painful it is for Jesus to ask this question. We kiss someone who is our brother, a friend, someone we trust, someone to show respect and love. Judas' kiss is kiss of death.

-Do we do anything like this?

We can "kiss" our spouse, while we have an affair with someone else.

We can "kiss" a friend while we are gossiping about the person.

We can “kiss” our business partner, while we are going to trap the person in a scandal...

In this season of “**Watch and Pray**”, examine yourself. Are you betraying Jesus in your life?

We read in Mark “**For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?**” (Mark 8:36 ESV)

### **- Sword**

The reaction of the disciples was that they wanted to stop Jesus’ arrest. They asked if they should use the sword. Peter (according to John) did not wait for the answer and **struck (Malchus) the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.**

We see here again the way Jesus handles violence:

**<sup>51</sup> But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him.”** (Luke 22:51 ESV)

Jesus’ approach to the violence is healing.

Violence never solves the real issue. This does not mean we should not defend our faith. We just commemorated Vartan Mamigonian’s battle. They had to use the “sword” to defend their faith. They did not ignite the war; they defended their faith.

We lost the battle, but not the war. Armenians kept their faith.

We need to learn from Jesus, how to “heal” the wounds of our enemies. That is the Christian approach to solve the real issues, the sin of humanity.

By healing Malchus’ ear, Jesus is teaching that, as he is going to the cross to die, he will also die for “Malchus”. Jesus alone will bear our sins.

Jesus could walk away from this. (Luke 4:30) He could ask fire to come over this people from heaven. No, that was not His mission. “Not my will but your will be done” was His mission. One day Jesus will be back will fight His battle. (Rev 19). But that is not his mission now. And it is not our mission now. Our mission to share His Word. Our mission is to wash people’s feet.

-Then Jesus questions the authorities, that He was with them all the time. Why did they not arrest him there? Were they afraid of the crowd? Obviously, they were!!! They did at night when the public was sleeping. They were hypocrite, they knew it was an illegitimate arrest; it was better at night.

**“This is your hour, and the power of darkness...”** On the cross Jesus will accomplish the opposite of what Evil, the power of darkness wishes. They think they are in control, in fact God is in control.

### **-Peter Denies Jesus**

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. <sup>55</sup> And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. <sup>56</sup> Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, “This man also was with him.” <sup>57</sup> But he denied it, saying, “Woman, I do not know him.” <sup>58</sup> And a little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not.” <sup>59</sup> And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, “Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.” <sup>60</sup> But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. <sup>61</sup> And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.” <sup>62</sup> And he went out and wept bitterly. (Luke 22:54-62 ESV)

Have you been in a situation like this? You are in an area where they don't have the same faith, values, maybe the ethnic background or language...

You try to “disappear”; you don't want people recognize you.

Or you want to assimilate with the crowd.

You say to yourself, “I hope they don't ask me who I am.”

I lived in the Middle East. Sometimes being a minority in the world where I lived was challenging. The Lebanese civil war was terrible. During those years you did not want to be in the wrong neighborhood, for example, it could cost your life.

We have arrived to the High Priest's house.

Most homes had open courtyards. There was the crowd. Peter was also following Jesus at a distance.

Let me tell you what Jesus said during dinner time to Peter the day before:

**“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, <sup>32</sup> but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” <sup>33</sup> Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to**

**death.”<sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.” (Luke 22:31-34 ESV)**

Other disciples are gone...

Peter is there... he promised Jesus that he would go with him to the prison or even to death. He also just “defended” Jesus by cutting the ear of the guy by his sword.

Three times Peter denies Jesus:

1. Servant girl asks if Peter is a follower of Jesus; **“Woman, I do not know him.”**
2. A man challenges Peter: **This man also was with him. “Man, I am not.”**
3. The third one is about an hour later when another man challenges him, and Peter’s response: **“Man, I do not know what you are talking about.”**

### **What is going on here?**

Fear: “What if they catch me? What if I’ll be killed?”

Peter, the rock, the stone is shattered...

Of course, as Jesus predicted, the rooster crows. (*This rooster became famous*) Peter could not take all this. He saw Jesus looking at him. He immediately left the place and wept bitterly.

### **-Why did Peter weep?**

-Maybe he remembered what he said to Jesus and what Jesus predicted about the denial.

-Maybe he wept out of deep shame and embarrassment!

-Maybe he remembered his first meeting when Jesus told him where to fish, and he experienced who Jesus was. Peter said, **“Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.”** (Luke 5:8)

-Maybe he remembered the words of Jesus:

**“And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God,<sup>9</sup> but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God.”** Luke 12:8,9 ESV)

-The important question in all these:

### **How does Jesus look at Peter?**

-Do you think Jesus looks to Peter saying, “I told you so”?

-Do you think Jesus looks to Peter saying, “I made mistake saying, ‘I will build my church upon this rock’?”

-Do you think Jesus looks to Peter with anger?

-I believe Jesus looks to Peter with love, compassion, and mercy.

-I believe Jesus looks to the woman who was going to be stoned with love and compassion, not judging, but protecting her from the accusers, and guiding her not to continue in sin.

**I love My LORD; Jesus on the road to the cross, he does not stop from healing the ear of the “enemy”; washing the feet of betrayer Judas; and looking to Peter with the eyes of compassion.**

Don’t you love Jesus?

In your most failing moment, God does not see you with anger or accusation; God sees you, the one who is created IN HIS IMAGE, as the sinner who needs GRACE.

We know the story does not end here. We know who Peter will be in Acts 2.

### **- A Servant-Woman and Two Men (*The mission field*)**

Three individuals challenged Peter:

**“This man also was with him.”** Servant-Woman said.

**“You also are one of them.”** A man said.

**“Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.”** Another man said.

Although those statements are suggesting that Peter is in trouble; they are accusing Peter as a follower of Jesus. Yet, God can work in many ways even with these accusers. What if Peter had a discussion with those people about who Jesus was? Brothers and sisters, those are our mission field.

I have seen God working in mysterious ways to share the Good News of the Bible. My High School friends, graduates of 1977 have a WhatsApp chat group. I did not have the courage to tell them about Jesus when I was in the school.

Now, they are seeking for spiritual guidance in their grief, in their marital issues, in their questions about life. They have opened the door for me to minister to them.

Do you have people around you like those who identify you that you are follower of Jesus. Do you pray for them? Do you try to care and love them? Do you have conversation about faith?

**Application:**

- Contemplate on the eyes of Jesus. How does Jesus look to your failures?
- Stop hiding in the community being Jesus' secret agent. Don't be ashamed that you are Christian and a follower of Jesus.
- Stay humble, we are followers of Jesus. Violence never solves issues. The society needs healing. Share the Good News of the Gospel with compassion and love, not a judgmental heart.

1. Darrell L. Bock, *NIV Study Bible Commentary Luke*, P 571