

Are You Ashamed of the Lord?

Matthew 26:47-50, 69-75

¹ The Apostle Paul said, I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. ¹ He was eager to preach the gospel in Rome.

But how about you? When you have the opportunity to share your faith, do you find yourself ashamed of it?

Matthew, chapter 26, verses 47 through 50 and verses 69 through 75, gives us two examples of being ashamed of the Lord. ² It says, While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.” Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. Jesus replied, “Friend, do what you came for”. ² ³

¹ Romans 1:16.

² v47-50.

Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. “You also were with Jesus of Galilee,” she said. But he denied it before them all. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said. Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.” He denied it again, with an oath: “I don’t know the man!”^{3 4}

After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away.” Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!” Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: “Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.^{4 5}

The first example of being ashamed of the Lord was . .

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³ v59-72.

⁴ v73-75.

I. Judas was Ashamed & Betrayed the Lord

Judas was ashamed and betrayed the Lord. ⁷ The first reason was because he was a thief. ⁸

Verses 6 through 9 of this chapter say, While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.”

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She poured a box of precious perfumed ointment on the Lord’s head. ¹⁰ Judas criticized her for doing it because he was a thief. ⁵ But expressions of true love and gratitude rarely count the cost. A woman from a

⁵ John 12:4-6 - But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected. “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.” He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it..

poor family might prepare a gourmet candlelight dinner for her husband to celebrate an important occasion. She normally couldn't afford it and had to skimp to do it - but it was worth it. It was prepared out of love. ¹¹

He was not only a thief, but he was also a schemer. ¹² Verses 14 through 16 continue, **Then one of the Twelve — the one called Judas Iscariot — went to the chief priests and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty silver coins. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.** ¹³

Verses 14 and 15 show us that the plot was well planned. ¹⁴ He was well paid. Thirty pieces of silver was the going price for a slave. ¹⁵ Then, verse 16 says, he looked for the opportunity to betray the Lord. ¹⁶

Judas knew ahead of time that Lord Jesus knew what he was going to do! Jesus told him twice at the Last Supper. ¹⁷ In verse 23 the Lord said it would be the

person who dipped the bread in the same bowl as He.

¹⁸ Then, again, in verse 25, Jesus plainly told him! ¹⁹

So, Judas is in character to become the betrayer! ²⁰ In verses 47 through 50 he leads a large crowd directly to the garden.

The betrayal is pretty obvious. ²¹ He calls out “Hi Rabbi” very loudly. ²² He points out who the Lord is from the crowd of disciples by planting a kiss on the Lord’s cheek.

Incidentally, according to the original word for “kiss” ⁶ this event was a very forceful kiss! ²³ This same word is used when the woman, anointing the Lord, kissed His feet. ⁷ ²⁴ This same word is used in the story of the Prodigal Son when his father kissed him. ⁸ ²⁵ The

⁶ καταφιλέω.

⁷ Luke 7:38 - Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

⁸ Luke 15:20 - But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

same word is used when the elders of Miletus kissed the Apostle Paul. ⁹ ₂₆

The second example of being ashamed of the Lord was . . .

II. Peter was Ashamed & Denied the Lord

Peter was ashamed and denied the Lord. ²⁷ He was ashamed and denied the Lord because he was not aware of the enemy. Verses 31 through 35 continue, **Then Jesus told them, “This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: ”“I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.” Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.” “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the other disciples said the **same.** ₂₈**

⁹ Acts 20:37 - They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him.

The word “fall away” ¹⁰ in verse 31 means to stumble or be entrapped. In the King James Version it is translated “offend”. We get our English word “scandal” from this word. ²⁹ The Lord implied that the disciples’ faith would stumble because of Him that night. ³⁰ But Peter bragged, **Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will!** ¹¹ ³¹

Peter wasn’t fighting against flesh and blood, but **against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.** ¹² He couldn’t resist these spiritual powers on his own; and neither can you! ³²

Peter was not aware of how to resist the enemy. ³³ Let’s continue with verses 38 through 41, **Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”** **Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground**

¹⁰ σκανδαλίζω.

¹¹ v33.

¹² Ephesians 6:12.

and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.” ³⁴

Now, notice how the Lord told His disciples to resist the enemy. You can resist the enemy by remaining with the Lord and staying watchful. ¹³ ³⁵ Then, verse 41 tells you to pray that you won’t enter into temptation.

¹⁴ ³⁶

Peter was ashamed and denied the Lord also because he was not aware of the power of God available to him. ³⁷

¹³ v38 - Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

¹⁴ v41 - “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.

Verse 51 says that he tried it on his own! He pulled out his sword to fight the crowd slicing off the high priest's servant's ear. ¹⁵ ₃₈

Trying to fight Satan using man's methods is sure defeat! Look at God's power available to you. ³⁹ Satan's forces, the probable size of the crowd, was one cohort: about 400 soldiers. ⁴⁰ God's forces were twelve legions: about 48,000 angels! ¹⁶ ₄₁ The power of God overshadows the power of Satan 120 to 1; right? You are on the winning side! ₄₂

Another reason Peter was ashamed and denied the Lord was he was not aware of his own weaknesses. ₄₃ Verses 69 through 75 continue, **Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. But**

¹⁵ v51 - With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

¹⁶ v53 - Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?

he denied it before them all. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said. Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.” He denied it again, with an oath: “I don’t know the man!” After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away.” Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!” Immediately a rooster crowed. ⁴⁴

Notice the progression of these denials. ⁴⁵ The response to the first girl in verse 70, **I don’t know what you’re talking about.** ⁴⁶ The response to the second girl came with an oath in verse 72, **I don’t know the man!** ⁴⁷ By the third time, in verse 74, he was calling down curses on himself and answered by swearing. ⁴⁸

But remember, this same Peter ended up preaching the sermon on the Day of Pentecost! ⁴⁹ Even when you goof and fall on your face, there’s hope. On your own

you will be defeated. But with the power of God you will be victorious! ⁵⁰

So, the question becomes . . .

III. Are You Ashamed of the Lord?

Are you ashamed of the Lord? ⁵¹ What happened to influence Judas and Peter to fail? ⁵²

Judas was a coward but at that moment became brave. Verse 47, **While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people.** He had a crowd behind him. ⁵³

Peter was brave. Remember he was ready to fight possibly 400 soldiers single handed. But at that moment Peter became a coward. Verse 51 states, **With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.** He was alone, surrounded by soldiers! ⁵⁴

How might you deny the Lord today? ⁵⁵ When you neglect the fellowship and worship of the church to sleep in or play with your favorite idol. ⁵⁶ When you are afraid to share your faith when the opportunity presents itself. ⁵⁷ When you fail to yield your life completely to the Lord!

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