

## The Kiss of Betrayal

This world is emerged in the sea of falsity. Men's heart, according to the Word of God is deceitful above all things and it is exceedingly perverse and corrupt and severely, mortally sick; who can know it (Jer. 17:9)? The heart has to do with that part of the soul where the emotion and will reside. In its deceitfulness there is pretense hidden from the actions and only God, Who searches the heart of men knows it. At the criticism of the Pharisees concerning the ceremonial washing of the hands before eating, YAHSHUA responded: There is not one thing outside man which by going into him can pollute and defile him; but the things which come out of a man are what defile him and make him unhallowed and unclean (Mark 7: 15,21). "As man thinks in his heart, so he is". The soul that has not experienced the spiritual birth is unhallowed; even though morally sound as it was the case of the Pharisees. Many times the face of men – the mirror of the soul, shows or radiate falsity through a smile, as Judas did with a kiss. Wrong Relationships are the links to that behavior, for the selfish motives of the heart carries a weight of falsity to obtain its desires through deceit.

Delilah from the land of the Philistines had one goal concerning her husband, Samson: to betray him. Samson, a man chosen to be a Nazirite of God from birth to deliver his people Israel from the its enemy, the Philistine, failed greatly in fulfilling the call, because he chose to marry a daughter of his enemy. He was entangled by her lies and deceits to obtain information about his strength to pass on to her people, so they would kill him. Her heart full of deceit enticed him to reveal the secret of his strength and his life was short lived, although blind and weak, he killed more Philistines in his death than when alive. The heart is by nature wicked and selfish. Paul admonishes us to the importance of a renewed mind; Solomon tells us to guard the heart above all else, for it is the source of life (Prov. 4:23); and as the water reflects the face, so the heart reflects the person (Prov. 27:19). We cannot hide who we are for long, because our actions will soon or latter reflect the true person we are inside.

The action of a betrayal shows itself in many ways; to YAHSHUA it came in a form of a kiss. Judas brought with him a mob with swords, clubs and a kiss, which would identify the One he was betraying. To YAHSHUA he said, "Rabbi" – and kissed him. But before he did that, YAHSHUA, knowing all things, said to him, Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss? Full of the devil, Judas had a kiss that had come from hell, under the direction of Satan himself. Sarcastically he printed his kiss on YAHSHUA'S face to mark him for His arrest. Matthew registers that he came up to YAHSHUA at once and said, Hail Master! And he embraced Him and kissed Him with warmth and devotion (Matthew 26: 49). Judas, from the beginning showed to be corrupt in the way he handled the money, for he was responsible for the money bag. When Mary anointed YAHSHUA with an expensive perfume to prepare Him for His burial Judas response was, Why wasn't this fragrant oil sold for 300 denarii and given to the poor? He didn't say this because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief. He was in charge of the money-bag and would steal part of what was put in it (John 12: 1-7). This is a perfect example of how deceitful the heart of man is. While Judas was saying one thing seemingly good, his heart was full of greed. His god was the money, the root of all evil. He betrayed YAHSHUA for thirty coins of silver; such a small price tag on the Son of God, Who was God Himself; He was the

radiance of His glory, the exact expression of His nature, and He sustains all things by His powerful word (Heb. 1: 3). His nation, in the person of Judas, disvalued him with rejection wrapped in a kiss! King David's also experienced betrayal from his own friend. So he said: for it is not an enemy who reproaches and taunts me then I might bear it; nor is it one who has hated me who insolently vaunts himself against me – then I might hide from him; but it was you, a man of my equal, my companion and my familiar friend (Ps. 55: 13); prophesying Judas' betrayal of YAHSHUA he said, **Even my own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, who ate of my bread, has lifted up his heel against me** (Ps. 41:9). The falsity of a heart that uses a kiss as the means to destroy a friend is dangerous to those who become its victims, because his evil heart is capable to go beyond anything to hurt someone close to him; he has a double mind. Titus describes this heart well: To the pure all things are pure, but to the defiled and corrupt and unbelieving nothing is pure; their very minds and consciences are defiled and polluted; they profess to know God, but deny and disown and renounce Him by what they do; they are detestable and loathsome, unbelieving and disobedient and disloyal and rebellious and unfit and worthless for good work of any kind (Titus 1:15-16).

The betrayal of YAHSHUA was not a surprise to Him. He knew what had been written about Him and He knew who would commit such sin; still he gave Judas a chance to repent. Just before His last supper with His disciples, YAHSHUA humbled himself and washed the feet of the disciples, even of Judas', His betrayer. And then He let them know that one of them was going to betray Him! That was a very solemn moment for the disciples who deeply distressed; each one began to say to Him, Surely not I, Lord? He replied, the one who dipped his hand with Me in the bowl – he will betray Me. He gave them a serious warning concerning the result of such betrayal: The Son of Man will go just as it is written about Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born (Matt. 26:22).

Our heart must be searched by our Lord to remove any wickedness from it; David prayed, Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts; see if there is any wicked or hurtful way in me; lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139:23-24); may the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You, Lord, my rock (Psalm 19:14). The Lord YAHSHUA said, Blessed is the pure in heart, because they will see God (Matt. 5:8). A broken and contrite heart the Lord will not despise. Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not set his mind on what is false, and who has not sworn deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek Him who seek the face of the God of Jacob (Psalm 24:3-6).

**Lord, let love be the substance of my emotion; the pillar of my will; the meditation of my heart; and the controller of my intellect. AMEN!**