

## Doctrine of Repentance

### Peter and Judas

#### A Study in Gospel Repentance

1. Following the Olivet Discourse the Bible teaches that Jesus once more informed the disciples of His death. Calvary was just ahead.
  - *Matthew 26:1 And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples, 2 Ye know that after two days is the feast of the Passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified. 3 Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, 4 And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill him. 5 But they said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar among the people.*
  
2. Despite the certainty of His death Jesus pressed on. And while most of the disciples made preparations for the Passover celebration, one disciple made preparations for the Lord's betrayal.
  - *Matthew 26:14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, 15 And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. 16 And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.*
  
3. Later that night at the Passover meal Jesus let Judas know that He was well aware of what He had done.
  - *Matthew 20:21 And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. 22 And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I? 23 And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. 24 The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born. 25 Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said.*
  
4. Once exposed to the Master's knowledge Judas could not linger any longer in the presence of goodness. John tells us he left the table and went out into the night. The irony is that Judas was not alone at the table in as far as future great sin was concerned. No one less than Peter would be involved in a heinous crime against Christ. And as with Judas, Jesus foretold what would happen.
  - *Matthew 26:31 Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. 32 But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.*

*33 Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended. 34 Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cockcrow, thou shalt deny me thrice.*

*35 Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.*

5. Despite Peter's protests it would all happen as Jesus predicted. After an initial act of bravery Peter dropped his sword and fled into the night.

- *Matthew 26:56 But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.*

6. While Jesus was being escorted away Peter followed afar off. And soon, very soon Peter found himself denying Christ—dare we say betraying Christ? Not once nor twice but three times.

- *Matthew 26:69 Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. 70 But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. 71 And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. 72 And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. 73 And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. 74 Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. 75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.*

7. "Oh Peter, how could you do such a thing? Was not the black deed of Judas enough to shock you into eternal faithfulness? "

- *Matthew 26:47 And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. 48 Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. 49 And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him. 50 And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him.*

8. There are many parallels between the sin of Peter and the sin of Judas.

- Both men were Disciples of Christ.
- Both men had witnessed His power.
- Both men had heard His teachings.
- Both men violated His trust.

9. One man violated the Lord's trust out of greed, the other out of fear. But the end result was the same—Jesus was betrayed and abandoned to His enemies.

## Consideration of Repentance

### There is the repentance of Judas.

- *Matthew 27:3 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? See thou to that. 5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. 6 And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. 7 And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. 8 Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day. 9 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value; 10 And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me.*
- *Acts 1:18 Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.*

### There is the repentance of Peter.

- *Matthew 26:75 And he went out and wept bitterly.*

Now the question is this. Since both men betrayed Jesus and both men repented why did one go to hell and the other go to heaven? The answer has to be this: there was a difference in their repentance. And that leads us to consider The Doctrine of Repentance.