



Jesus and the Wound of Betrayal

Matthew 26:47-56

A kiss is usually a symbol of love — affection, loyalty, friendship.

But there is one kiss in history remembered for a different reason. This kiss that took place in a garden outside Jerusalem.

A single kiss became the sign of betrayal. And that's why the story matters. Because betrayal isn't just something that happened to Jesus. It's

a kiss many of us have felt. Most of us know what it is like to be wounded by someone else.

Tonight, we step into that garden— where a kiss wounded — the wound of betrayal.

For all who have been betrayed, wounded by someone close:

Jesus knows what it is to be betrayed.

As if needing reminding, Matthew tells us Judas is “one of the twelve.”

Mark tells us Judas kissed him fervently— intensely.

Jesus had proclaimed the kingdom as “at hand.”

Now his betrayer is at hand.

Jesus knows what it is to be betrayed.

Where have you felt it?

Close friend? Spouse? Coworker?

Family member? Confidant?

When your stomach knots at the thought...

Jesus is there.

Betrayal always moves us.

Betrayal never leaves us neutral. It moves us.

Forward or backward.

Toward God or away from God.

And if we're not careful, it will write our story: It can:

- 1) Define us. We become bitter. Guarded.
Distant.
- 2) Defeat us. Trust shrinks. Suspicion grows.
Joy fades.
- 3) Disciple us. In surrender, betrayal can shape us into a disciple.

Peter's response to the betrayal seems reasonable.

To retaliate. Take up the sword. But Jesus disarms Peter, and us.

Jesus shows us another way.

Jesus was betrayed by Judas. But he entrusted himself to the Father.

Twice he refers to the Scriptures being fulfilled (vv. 54, 56).

Judas betrayed Him. The disciples left Him. The soldier bound him.
But the Father held Him.

And in Christ, His Father is also your Father
and will hold you.

So, what is your response this morning? Some of us may need to bring our wound to Jesus. Some of may need to bring our will to Jesus. All of us need to come honestly. Jesus knows what it is to be betrayed by someone close. He does not minimize it. He does not shame you for feeling it. He enters it. He carries it to the cross. So, when betrayal comes- don't reach for the sword, reach for the Savior!