**“The King’s Passion: Betrayal with a Kiss”**

**Matt. 26:46-56; Ps. 2**

**(Notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 8/24/25)**

 Two kisses.

 One, the bitter kiss of betrayal. A kiss of rebellion and self-will. A kiss of imitation intimacy and superficial interest, ultimately leading to Hell.

 The other, a kiss of allegiance and surrender. A kiss of devotion and gratitude and blessing, ultimately leading to Heaven.

 The choice today is yours. God puts up with man’s self-will and pride for a season (Q1), but one day, the opportunity to surrender to the King will be lost forever. Let me say it again: the choice is yours.

 Read Matt. 26:54 and 56. Jesus carried out EVERYTHING necessary for you to be saved. He fulfilled EVERY prophecy and EVERY requirement. Judas’ kiss of betrayal set in motion the long-awaited victory of God’s anointed king over His enemies (and ours!). Jesus knew He would be crushed like olives in an oil press, dying for the sins of His guilty people. At Gethsemane, God the Son resolved to drink the cup of the Father’s wrath… for you.

 Jesus is our **COURAGEOUS** king. He did not run from His arrest. He boldly proclaimed who He is: “I AM (He).” Jesus is God, the Incarnate Word (John 18:4-6). He is our **COMPASSIONATE** king. Read Matt. 26:50. Even at the end, Jesus left open the gates of grace to this rebellious friend. Judas still had a choice, even after his betraying kiss. It’s still not too late for you, either. The sin that drove Jesus to the cross was your sin. Apart from His grace, you are lost for eternity.

 Jesus is our **CORRECTING** king. Read Matt. 26:50-53 again. Jesus emphasizes that He is not using human means to accomplish this spiritual task. This arrest MUST occur if this great work of redemption is to happen. Let’s not forget that even now, in 2025, the power of change comes from God, not laws or political parties or works of man. It’s simply unprofitable to use human means to build the kingdom of God (James 1:20). The weapons of our warfare are the Word of God and prayer. In the midst of Jesus’ agony, He loves His disciples so much that He corrects them. So, bow to His gracious authority. Grab hold of His forgiving authority (Ps. 2:12). The eleven gave the kiss of adoration and faith, but even they fled fearfully. But they didn’t go far, and they all returned to Him.

 Finally, Jesus is our **CONSECRATED** king. He alone will go to the cross. He alone has been set apart for this very purpose. So, kiss the Son. The Father sent His son not to condemn us, but to save us (John 3:16-18).

*Father, help us to daily see Your majesty and Your grace and Your great love for us. Remind us every day of Your sovereignty. May we be courageous ambassadors for You. Amen*

**QUESTIONS**:

1. How long will God put up with man’s self-will and pride?
2. Judas seemed to be interested in political influence, power, and money. How about you? Why do you follow Jesus?
3. Why do you think Judas followed Jesus for three years, given his unbelief?
4. How does false discipleship show up in the church today?
5. At Gethsemane, how are Jesus’ true disciples different from Judas?
6. How does the comparison of these two kisses help you understand genuine faith?
7. The western church has been accused by some of being filled with many who have a “superficial interest” in Jesus. Discuss.

**“My Jesus, I Love Thee” (Featherston)**

My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, ’tis now.

I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary’s tree;
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, ’tis now.

I’ll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath;
And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, ’tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I’ll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I’ll sing with the glittering crown on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, ’tis now.