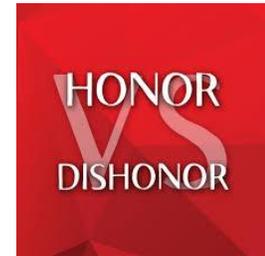


Today we begin our Easter series which will highlight the way certain people treated Jesus during His passion week.
Some will give Him honor and some will give Him dishonor.



To honor: esteem, respect, exalt, praise
To dishonor: insult, scandalize, slander, discredit

In this series, we will see some people that did these things to Jesus.

Ex.

A mystery woman

Peter

The crowd

Joseph of Arimathea

But today we begin with Judas Iscariot.

We will also be in Mt 26 for the duration of this series, leading up to Resurrection Sunday.

Mt 26:1 *When Jesus had finished all these words...*

What words?

He told the:

- Parable of the 10 virgins – be ready
- Parable of the talents – be useful
- Parable of the final judgment – be kind

After those words

v.1 *When Jesus had finished all these words, He said to His disciples,*

v.2 *"You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man is to be handed over for crucifixion."*

Yes,

It was the time of the Passover but the disciples did not make the connection that Jesus was the Lamb of God for this one.

And,

Calling Himself the "Son of Man" being a term of deity, would only confound them more.

v.3 *Then the chief priests and the elders of the people were gathered together in the court of the high priest, named Caiaphas;*

v.4 *and they plotted together to seize Jesus by stealth and kill Him.*

“stealth” *dolos* – secretly

Pr 3:35 *The wise will inherit honor, But fools display dishonor.*

“display” lift up, exalt

They exalt their own dishonor.

Note;

That is what happens when you dishonor another person.

When you discredit, or scandalize another person, you actually exalt your own dishonor.

ie.

Show the world how dishonorable you are.

And that is what is going on here.

These supposedly religious people, (leaders) are revealing they are actually dishonorable by their plan to dishonor Jesus.

Caiaphas was appointed by the Romans to keep the peace among the Jews.

Therefore,

He was in alliance with the Romans.

Here was the problem:

v.5 *But they were saying, "Not during the festival, otherwise a riot might occur among the people."*

Many of the people there were from Galilee as was Jesus and saw Him as a prophet. Should they take Jesus in public would surely cause an uprising.

v.14 *Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests*

Apparently Judas also had a problem with the Messiahship of Jesus.

Like Judas, as with so many people today, when Jesus does not fit their idea of who He should be, they turn on Him.

Sadly,

We see this going on also in social media.

I have seen posts where people said,

If you support this person, unfriend me.

If you voted for this person, unfriend me.

If you liked the super bowl halftime show, unfriend me.

What is happening to people's minds today?

What we're saying is, if you don't think like me, we can't be friends. I actually don't want you in my life.

Jesus, You are not the Jesus we want so we are going to kill You.
And that is exactly what is going on here!
So Judas goes to the chief priests and says;

v.15 *"What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?"*

Judas is a taker, not a giver.

Takers are never satisfied, they always want more.

Givers are content right where they are.

When a woman anointed Jesus with costly perfume in Jn 12; Judas said;

v.5 Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor people?"

v.6 Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.

v.15 *And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him.*

The standard price of a slave.

"pieces of silver" shekel (a coin)

In 1915 a shekel was worth about 66 cents.

30 shekels X .66 = \$19.80

In Gen 37, after Joseph was thrown into a pit by his jealous brothers;

v.28 Then some Midianite traders passed by, so they pulled him up and lifted Joseph out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. Thus they brought Joseph into Egypt. \$13.20

note;

The priests didn't go looking for Judas; Judas went looking for them.

A dishonorable person always looks for others to help them in their betrayal.

v.16 *From then on he began looking for a good opportunity to betray Jesus.*

How interesting:

Lu 4 *When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.*

You see;

Satan's attacks and temptations are not constant. But he looks for opportunity to do his dirty work on your soul.

- A word said
- A thing done
- A disappointment

- Your button got pushed

Now he has an opportunity to get in.

So,

Guard your heart!

Finally;

Judas teaches us:

1. We cannot change God, it is we who must be changed by Him.

2. Judas, nor the priests, nor anyone else knows better than God.

Don't fall into the trap of being a dishonorable person by slandering or discrediting others.

Be noble and upright in all your dealings.

NEXT TIME

We 'll see a mystery woman who honored Jesus