

St James News: Thought for the day, Wednesday 8 April - Holy Week.

## **Two Betrayals - Judas & Peter**

- Revd John Marshall

Reading John: 13: 21 - 38.

Grace, peace and love to you all my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. The Holy Week is here but the governments directives, on social distancing and self-isolation, to prevent the spread of COVID-19, challenge our understanding of what it means to worship God in spirit and in truth. God is Spirit, and this is the time to slow down in humility and honestly worship Him in spirit and in truth. Hope you are all coping well during this lockdown in Holy Week and Easter.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, “self- knowledge or self-awareness & quote; puts us on our knees, as this is very necessary for love. Knowledge of God gives us love, while knowledge of self gives us humility” How well we know ourselves, our strength and our weakness, and our hidden motives will lead us to self-knowledge and this is the truth that will set us free.

At the Last Super, when Jesus said to Judas, to do quickly what he planned to do, could one say that Judas was doing the will of God? Or could one be accused of theorizing too much or guilty of too much speculation?

The Scripture is clear, and the Church is resolute in the fact that we cannot do evil that good may come out (Romans 6:1-2) “what shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?”

Certainly not!

From the gospels, we know very well, Judas was not the only betrayer of our Lord at the Last Supper. Peter protested that he would lay down his life for Jesus yet denied Him three times before the cock crew. Jesus saw Peter’s denial clearly, just as he saw Judas’ betrayal. Jesus knew what they would do before the event. Jesus knows the thoughts of our hearts and the words being formed within us.

Lent is one of the times we are called to examine ourselves and repent of our sins. We can do this through, prayer, reading the Bible and meditation and as we call on the Holy Spirit to help us to do what is right before God.

In the case of Peter and Judas, after self-examination one repented and reconciled with Christ while Judas, despaired and hung himself.

The lesson for us here is that even if we betray Jesus, we can repent and be reconciled to Him. So, let us follow Peter's example and return to Christ in our thoughts, words and deeds.

**Prayer** - Lord Jesus when we sin, help us to repent like Peter. Amen.

**Bible Verse:** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. - 1 John 1:9

**Song :** All to Jesus I surrender - you can listen to it here  
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SW8EA7DEQ2M>

All to Jesus I surrender,  
All to Him I freely give;  
I will ever love and trust Him,  
In His presence daily live.

*I surrender all,  
I surrender all.  
All to Thee, my blessed Saviour,  
I surrender all.*

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Humbly at His feet I bow,  
Worldly pleasures all forsaken;  
Take me, Jesus, take me now.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Make me, Saviour, wholly Thine;  
Let me feel Thy Holy Spirit,  
Truly know that Thou art mine.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Lord, I give myself to Thee;  
Fill me with Thy love and power,  
Let Thy blessing fall on me.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Now I feel the sacred flame.  
Oh, the joy of full salvation!  
Glory, glory to His name!