

“When a Kiss Hurts”
The Gospel According to Mark 14:43-52
January 6th, 2019

An 86 year old fisherman was sitting in his boat one day when he heard a voice say, “Pick me up.” He looked around and couldn’t see any one. He thought he was dreaming when he heard the voice say again, “Pick me up.” He looked in the water and there, floating on the top, was a frog. The man said, “Are you talking to me?”

The frog said, “Yes, I’m talking to you. Pick me up. Then, kiss me and I’ll turn into the most beautiful woman you’ve ever seen. I’ll be sure that all your friends are jealous because you will have me as your bride.”

The old fisherman looked at the frog for a short time, reached over, picked it up, and placed it in his front breast pocket. Then the frog said, “What are you, nuts? Didn’t you hear what I said? I said kiss me and I’ll be your beautiful bride.”

He opened his pocket, looked at the frog and said, “Nah, at my age I’d rather have a talking frog.”

Today, we return to our study of the New Testament gospel account of St. Mark. We’re well into the 14th chapter; we’ve only about 8 sermons left in this study. Today’s passage (**Mark 14:43-52**) contains the greatest betrayal of all-time – Judas Iscariot’s role in leading Jesus’ enemies to Him in the Garden of Gethsemane. What is even more appalling is the manner in which Judas outed Jesus. *You’ve seen SWAK sometimes on the back of an envelope?* (Sealed with a Kiss). The same acronym could be used here in **Mark Chapter 14** (Sold with a Kiss).

This background helps you understand why I’ve entitled this message, “When a Kiss Hurts.” And, boy did it when we consider the fallout that takes place because of the kiss. Even so, all this had to happen for the Scriptures to be fulfilled.

Mark 14:43-52:

⁴³And immediately, while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. ⁴⁴Now His betrayer had given them a signal, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead *Him* away safely.”

⁴⁵As soon as he had come, immediately he went up to Him and said to Him, “Rabbi, Rabbi!” and kissed Him.

⁴⁶Then they laid their hands on Him and took Him. ⁴⁷And one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

⁴⁸Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? ⁴⁹I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.”

⁵⁰Then they all forsook Him and fled.

⁵¹Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around *his* naked *body*. And the young men laid hold of him, ⁵²and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked.”

Fanny Crosby, the blind song writer, was at a rescue mission in New York City. She asked if there was a boy there who had no mother, and if he would come up and let her lay her hand upon his head. A motherless little guy came up to her, and she put her arms around him and kissed him.

They parted. She went from that meeting and wrote the hymn, "Rescue the Perishing." Years later, when Ira Sankey was about to sing that song at a rally in St. Louis, he related the incident.

Afterwards, a man came to Mr. Sankey and said, "I am the boy she kissed that night. I never was able to get away from the impression made by that touching act, until I became a Christian. I am now living in this city with my family, I'm a Christian, and I'm doing a good business!"

Oh, how much good a kiss can have!

All four gospel accounts cover the betrayal of Jesus in the Garden. Each of these accounts adds at least one detail that the other three gospel accounts do not contain. Let's look at a few of them:

1 – Verse 42 in today's passage reveals that Judas "came from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders." In his gospel account, the Apostle John adds to that list "the Pharisees" in **John 18:3**. And, Dr. Luke includes the "captains of the temple" in **Luke 22:52**. This is a small army of Jesus' enemies coming out in the night to seize Him.

2 – In verse 43 of today's passage, Mark mentions the squad arrived with "swords and clubs." In **John 18:3**, we see that John includes "lanterns, torches, and weapons." This little detail was armed to the teeth as they came looking for Jesus.

3 – In verse 44 of today's passage, Mark reveals Judas giving a sign to the squad so they knew who to arrest. It reads, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead *Him* away safely." John's account shows Jesus is the One who took the initiative by going "forward and saying to them, 'Whom are you seeking?'" (**John 18:4**) Luke adds more detail in **Luke 22:48**. We read there, "...Jesus said to him, 'Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?'"

4 – In verse 45 of today's passage, Judas goes to Jesus, acknowledging Him "Rabbi, Rabbi!" and he kisses Him. Matthew's account reveals Jesus saying "Rabbi" just once before Judas kissed him. There in the dark of the night, with only shadowy figures observable, Judas carries through with His betrayal revealing Jesus' identity to the army He came with.

There's an important note to consider at this point. Critics of the truth of the Bible would point out here that the Scripture contradicts itself when Mark says Judas said "Rabbi" twice, and Matthew says that Judas said it just once. Both can't be right, these critics say, and we would respond, "Yes, that is a correct statement to observe that both cannot be correct." However, we must also note that the gospel accounts were written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John – 4 different men with 4 different perspectives on what was taking place as they walked with Jesus. From his standpoint, Mark heard Judas say "Rabbi" twice; and from his standpoint, Matthew

heard Judas say Rabbi once. *Isn't it plausible that Matthew didn't hear the second "Rabbi?"* Of course it is plausible! We mustn't get our knickers in a knot over something that can be so easily explained, and resist the temptation to place ourselves over sacred Scripture, and instead, submit ourselves to it, and its Author, Almighty God.

5 – **Mark 14:46-47** reveal Jesus being seized, and someone with Him lopping off the ear of one of the cohort with Judas. John is the only one of the four gospel writers who reveals the identities of these two men. The one with the sword was Simon Peter, and the one losing his ear was a servant of the high priest by the name of Malchus (**John 18:10**).

6 – Mark is the only gospel writer to include what we find in verses 51 and 52 of **Mark Chapter 14**. “Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around *his* naked body. And the young men laid hold of him,⁵² and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked.” As we read this text for men’s prayer group yesterday morning, it was just about unanimous that these two verses are the most curious of today’s text! Suffice it to say that theologians and commentators think this is was most probably Mark himself.

There are more we could consider, but that is sufficient to prove the point that every part of God’s Word is important, and to properly understand the teaching of Scripture, we must compare it to other Scriptures.

Application: One doctrine we take away from this text is this - the authority of the Church is ministerial and declarative. The power of the Church is not physical or brute force. The Church’s power is ministering the Word of God, and God’s Word is the message we declare.

The Apostle Paul notes in **2 Corinthians 10:4**, “For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal...” Zechariah wrote in his Old Testament prophesy, “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of hosts.” (**Zechariah 4:6**) JC Ryle observes in his *Expository Thoughts*, “The cause of truth does not need force to maintain it. False religions, like Mohammedanism (Islam) have often been spread by the sword. The real Gospel of Christ requires no such aids as these.” (Ryle, 322)

In a few moments, I will stand behind this table, and declare to you that only those who are baptized believers in Jesus Christ under the authority of a particular congregation may take the bread and the cup. If you haven’t been baptized or you are not presently a member in good standing of a particular church, then you should refrain from partaking. We can surely correct that situation, though. If you’re not baptized, let’s hear your story and get you into the membership of the Church. If you’re not a member, let’s get that corrected. I declare these things to you, but no one will slap you on the wrist, or try to take the bread or cup out of your hand if you’re not a Christian. You’ll have to take that up with God if you’re taking the elements even though you’ve been warned not to. And that isn’t pretty often!

Another application of this text comes from verse 50 – “Then they all forsook Him and fled.” Every one of the 11 remaining disciples fled from Jesus after He was taken into custody. How sad! How pathetic! How easy it should be for us to relate to! *Friend, when was the last time you ran away from Jesus?* To run away from the Church is to run away from Jesus.

Do you remember the account of Saul becoming a believer in Jesus Christ? It's in Acts Chapter 9, verses 1-5. "Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way (the Church), whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. ⁴ Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" ⁵ And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."

Had Saul been threatening Jesus with murder? Had he been persecuting Jesus? The context shows that Saul was threatening and persecuting Christians – the people of God. So close is the relationship of Jesus to His people, that to persecute believers in Jesus is to persecute Jesus Himself! The Church is the Body of Jesus Christ; He is the Head of the Church! More likely, you haven't run from the church, you've stayed away from her – and to stay away from the gatherings and fellowship of the Church is to stay away from Him.

Dear ones, fight the temptation to drift away because you mistakenly think that Church is something you merely attend. This isn't a movie or a play or a concert that can merely be watched and then walked away from. This is the weekly gathering of a portion of God's people to be instructed by His Spirit in the Word! We huddle again next Sunday morning at 10:30 AM with Bible Study and Sunday School at 9:15 AM!

There's one more application. *Who is speaking into your life? Who are the people who have your ear, and to whom you are listening?* Are your personal counselors believers in Jesus Christ? It's a great thing for each of us to have non-Christian friends. For them to have any hope of eternal salvation from the punishment due their sins, they must be exposed to the message of Scripture. We're the ones who are to befriend and have acquaintance with those who aren't among the fellowship of God's Church. Judas resisted the teaching of Jesus and His fellow disciples. His end will be swift and eternally wretched. So could yours; listen well to believers in Jesus, but listen with discernment to those who are not Christians!

At a New York subway station a middle-aged gentleman stepped to the platform. As he did, a young lady rushed up to him, threw her arms around him, and kissed him several times, exclaiming, "Oh, daddy, I'm so glad you got back."

The gentleman threw both of his arms around the girl and held her firmly. Then she looked up into his face and screamed with horror – "Oh, goodness, you're not my daddy!" She tried to free herself, but he held her tightly, insisting: Yes, I am and you are my long-lost daughter, and I am not going to let you go until I can call a policeman."

A police officer was there in a few minutes. He and the gentleman found the latter's diamond tie pin in the girl's hand.

Sometimes, a kiss hurts!