

Scripture ~ Mark 14: 43 - 46

⁴³ Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. ⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵ So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁴⁶ Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.

Reflection for Adults

About a century before the betrayal of Jesus in Jerusalem, another betrayal occurred in the city of Rome. On the Ides of March, Julius Caesar surprised, found himself surrounded by assassins. An even greater surprise came when he realized one of them was his good friend and protégé, Marcus Brutus. In crafting this dramatic scene, Shakespeare puts into Julius Caesar's mouth these legendary words: "Et tu Brute? You too, Brutus?"

Someone once said that "the saddest thing about betrayal is that it never comes from your enemies." And so it was with Jesus and Judas. The scriptures are quick to point out that Judas was "one of the twelve" (Mark 14:43). It could even be argued that he was one of the more influential members of the inner circle. After all, he was the treasurer who made sure there was enough money to carry on the mission of building the kingdom. And yet, it was this "one of the twelve" who betrayed Jesus, setting in motion events that would ultimately lead to Jesus' crucifixion.

Take a look at the picture. Close to the betrayer's lips is an object that looks oddly like a crescent moon. In John's account of the Last Supper, after Judas gets up from the table to betray Jesus to the chief priests, John writes, "and it was night" (John 13:30).

Going Deeper

- When have you used your own position of trust to betray someone close to you?
- Have you ever been let down by a close friend or family member?
- How did you choose to deal with your feelings?

Reflection for Children

When you betray a friend you hurt them by telling a lie about them. Judas was one of the twelve apostles, and one of Jesus' friends. But he also betrayed Jesus by lying to the priests and police about who Jesus was. The priests gave Judas thirty pieces of silver to in return for betraying Jesus. While Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, Judas showed the soldiers where he was. Because Judas told lies about Jesus, Jesus was arrested.

Discussion with Children

- Have you ever told a lie about someone you cared for?
- How do you think it made them feel to know you had betrayed them?