

April 3, 2023 – Monday of Holy Week

## Sometimes Christians Fall Down

[Matthew 26:14-27:66](#)

*<sup>14</sup> Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup> and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup> From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over. (NIV)*

Even though Judas had been with Jesus for three years and had experienced the goodness and righteousness of Jesus firsthand, he was the one to betray Jesus. This is a cautionary tale for Lent.

Christians, even those who know Jesus very well, can fall down.

When I read the scripture above, I generally find myself identifying with Jesus. How painful it is to have been betrayed by a trusted friend! However, the reality is that many times we ourselves are the betrayers. Maybe not intentionally, as in the case of Judas, but even the unintentional betrayal is painful - perhaps sometimes even more so.

We fail to encourage a stressed coworker, do not assist an overwhelmed friend who may have been counting on us, do not appreciate the efforts of others to make our lives better, don't take the time to listen, treat those in our own families with less compassion than we have for others.

The season of Lent holds a mirror to our own faces and asks hard questions.

Have I taken grace for granted?

Have I assumed Jesus was always on call for me should a crisis occur in my life even though I may have ignored Him much of the time?

Have my prayers come up short on gratitude, appreciation, thanksgiving?

Have I taken the gift of salvation and felt superior enough to look down upon others who differ from my point of view?

Are we the betrayed or the betrayer?

***Prayer:*** *Father, please help us to be aware of our selfishness and remain vigilant against betrayal and ingratitude, and to be repentant and apologetic when we slip. Help us to be more like Jesus and to come before him with humility and remorse. Help us to keep our hands open, ready to serve others and provide what is needed at the right moment. Amen.*

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