

Scripture: Ex. 20:1-17 & Matt. 26:14-16; 20-25; 31-35; 48-50; 69-75; 27:1-5

Singing: 400:1, 3, 5 – 384:1, 5 – 51:1-3 – 70:1, 5 – 388:1, 3, 4

Intro: Paul's main text in preaching! (1 Cor. 2:2; Eph. 6:19)

A. He determined to focus mainly the truth of Jesus' cross (Gal. 6:14)

B. What does Paul's main text mean to you? (John 12:21)

THE PORTRAIT OF TWO OF JESUS' DISCIPLES

I. How they were alike? II. How they were different?

I. HOW THEY WERE ALIKE?

A. They were so alike that *no one* could tell them apart as being false or true

1. Our chief business: *examine yourself* (2 Cor. 13:5)

a. about *whether ye be in the faith*

b. about *how that Jesus Christ is in you*

B. Judas and Peter were fearfully similar before our human eyes

1. Both called by Jesus and followed Jesus for 3 years

a. both heard and were affected by Jesus' preaching

b. both denied themselves and shared in Jesus' suffering

c. both went out to preach and do miracles thru Jesus' power

d. both followed betrayed Jesus

e. both experienced pungent guilt and repentance about their sins

2. Yet one was banished from God's presence – the other entered glory

II. HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT?

A. Their difference is in the attitude of their hearts

1. Bible records that *none suspected Judas* (22-25)

a. Judas was the master hypocrite

b. Judas did not seek Jesus for pure reasons

c. Judas' remorse was followed with suicide

2. Bible records Peter's action also:
 - a. Peter's fall is one of the most depressing instances of depravity
 - b. Peter's sin has elements that exceeded Judas' sin (33-35; 70-74)
 - b. Peter's remorse was followed with repentance
3. This vast difference: the presence or absence of Almighty grace

CONCLUSION: What are we take along from this solemn contrast?

A. Following Christ & making changes in life does not mean *saved*

B. Crushing sense of guilt & owning your sin is not saving!

1. both had powerful guilt feelings and owned their sin

2. what brings salvation from sin in genuine repentance?

C. Love to Jesus reveals a man's change of heart!

1. Be careful in using *outward standards* to evaluate your salvation

2. Almighty and saving grace reveals itself in reality of love

- a. despite his sin, Peter loved the Person Jesus Christ

3. How can I know I love Jesus?

- a. by how sin against Him by yourself/others affect your heart!

- b. by how your heart desires to have Him honored – exalted (Phil. 2:18)

- c. by how you delight in His commandments & living them out

D. Faith in Jesus accompanies genuine love to Him

1. Though Peter's faith in Christ was imperfect, he did believe in Him as his only hope for salvation: John 6: 68-69

2. Is such faith found in us?