tre You Counting on Social or Church Standing to Get You to Heaven?

ETRAYED BY A KISS

s Avarice Eating Into Your Soul Like a Gangrene, Asks Ellis

the International Sunday School Lesson For October 25 Is "Jesus and Judas."—Matt. 26:14-25; 47-50; 27:3-10

(By William T. Ellis)

Only a very few names are known to all the civilized world; and there is but one that is the synonym of treason, ingratitude and black discovalty. To say "Judas," is to call up the world's one personality whose name is synonymous with all that numanity instinctively despises. The worst adjective that can be applied to any man to-day is to call him a Judas."

worst adjective that can be applied to any man to-day is to call him a "Judas."

Yet "Judas, the Traitor." was once Judas the loyal, warm-hearted, aspiring Jewish patriot, seeking to follow the best light he could find. As a mother sees her innocent babe in the face of her murderer son, so we cannot help recalling the other Judas. The man who might have been.

Orthodox—But a Traitor

Only one of the twelve apostles came from ultra-orthodox Judea, and he was Judas. The aristricarcy of the Jewish religion was found in the province of Judea. They counted themselves a little more loyal to Jehovah and the law, than their fellow Jews from other parts. By ancestry and environment Judas had greater advantages than his comrades. He was the ultra-orthodox disciple whose home was nearest to the temple and its religious privileges.

If any man is counting on his family line, or his social and religious standing to deliver him from disloyalty and sin, he would better take a long look at the case of Judas. No man is so high that he may not fall low. Church membership does not save one from treason to Christ. Even activity in religious work is no guarantee that one may not fall into grievious sin. The first simple message of the Judas story is to be self-distrustful and modest. "Let him that standeth take heed lest he fall."

"One ship drives East, another drives West,
While the selfsame breezes blow;
'Tis the set of the salls, and not the gales, That bids them where to go.

"Tis the set of the sails, and not the gales,
That bids them where to go.

"Like the winds of the air, are the wars of the fates,
As we journey along through life."
Tis the set of the soul that decides the goal,
And not the storm or the strife."
My Way, or Not at All
No man knows the hour when Judas, the loyal, expectant and trustful disciple, began to change into Judas, the resentful, scheming avaricious traitor. Evidently, his first disoyaity was unwillingness to trust Christ's plan. In common with the other disciples, he did not approve of Christ setting up a spiritual kingdom instead of a temporal. All his expectations had been directed toward the restoration of earthly power. He had always held in mind the possibility of a large place for himself. Sure of his own worldly wisdom he could not agree to what he regarded as an anti-climax for the career of Jesus and His friends. He represented a large number of us who are willing to serve God, but on our own terms.

Then Judas was a lover of money, Avarice ate into his soul like a gangrene. The old church fathers labeled avarice as one of the seven deadly sins, and with reason. It is not only a sin in itself, but it begets a whole swarm of other sins.

Perfectly respectable and lawabiding persons are the ones likeliest to be overwhelmed by this sin of avarice, which slays more souls than the sin of murder. We are fond of calling it "thrift," "prudence," "business sagacity," when it is nothing but sheer, stark, ruthless love of money, Avarice made Judas a murderer and a traitor; even as it has changed many another Godfearing man into a hard, cruel, suspicious, money-grabbing oppressor of his fellow men. In the black shadow of the Judas crime may we not forswear solemnly the beginnings of the deadly sin of avarice?

Running With a New Crowd

the deadly sin of avarice?

Running With a New Crowd

Sweeter, tenderer and more beautiful than all the prayer meetings ever held was that which Jesus shared with His disciples on the last night in the upper room. The comfort of that gathering has blessed the world for inincteen centuries since. Judas shirked it. He had no taste for prayer meetings—a symptom of for prayer meetings—a symptom of his moral and spiritual decline, which he did not fully realize himself.

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