

Met 20:20-34

(1). "Three young men..and the mystery of
the missing motive."

Introd:- (1). As meeting now called to order..I propose to read minutes of what happened long time ago. Well, not exactly minutes..although minutes there, packed into many hours...but really a personal DIARY..written long ago by man who writes no longer. Personal, as most diaries are. Some keep in book with hasp..lock..key. This one has been left lying wide open..contrary to wishes of writer. And without his permission..I propose to read extracts...

(2). It begins like this: "I did not begin keep a diary until in my late 20s..but let me state briefly a bit about early life. Who am I? I have often asked question. I never knew my mother, her name, her home. No word has come to me about her. And I suspect some disgrace fell upon her..and she was banished...Where? I know not. My father..was he my father? I am not like him. His name was Simon. He was a Jew, and name means "Hearing". Pious old simpleton! Always listening to his Rabbis..as though they knew anything! WHO AM I? Yes, I heard lots of those dry-as-dust sermons, when Simon dragged me to synagogue. Faugh! I wanted to do my own thing..and as soon as I was free..off I went to make a way in the world. June 20th. Today I think I see a start in life. I hear of a real estate deal that will make money. Not far from the city there's a bit of land that will soon be needed for development. I must get hold of it. I MUST GET IT. Aug. 14th. Well,here's a queer thing. I am offered a job in a religious organization! I have always been good at math. In Kerioth, where I was born, I was always on top of this subject. In fact, I was well-known..so that they called my, not son of Simon..but Man of Kerioth. I guess they were proud of me. Even the Jews used that name Ish-Kerioth..Man of Kerioth. And now this group wants me as their treasurer. That's a joke..but I'll go along..to get along.

February 9th. I have had a tough time lately. The boss of this church group got a weird idea that we ought to travel about in twos, and tell people about God, or something. Well, I didn't like that! I am not going to name the chap I travelled with, but I let him do all the preaching. I kept very busy setting up chairs and counting the offering. I counted them alone...and...well I had better not put down here how the books were kept..but I am making some good payments on that real estate. Right now I only need one final payment of about \$15.00. Wish I had it.

April 3rd. I see how to do it. This is some special time amongst the Jews. They call it 13th day of Nisan, first month of their religious calendar. There's a big affair on tomorrow, called Passover. And there's a bunch of religious fanatics who hate the leader of our commune. And they'll pay me 30 of their silver half-dollars if I can get him into their hands. I'LL DO IT! I can do it tonight...in Gethsemane.

April 4th. I did it. And they've got him. And I've got the money. BUT..BUT..my lips are on fire. I kissed him.. to identify him..and my mouth has burned with condemnation ever since. He knew I had betrayed him..and yet he called me "Friend". God help me! The silver burns in my pocket. It scorchs my thigh! I can't keep it! I'll take it back to those priests. If they won't take it, I'll throw it at them! Ringing in my ears is cry of my soul: "I HAVE BETRAYED THE INNOCENT BLOOD!".

Here the diary comes to abrupt end..as though pen broke beneath a heavy hand..Page blotted..smeared.

Underneath, in another handwriting are these words:
"He went out and hanged himself."

Somewhere along way..as read that story..a light come on in your heart, mind..didn't it? And suddenly you said:-
"JUDAS ISCARIOT ..ISHKERITH..THE TRAITOR!"

He came to the end of his rope..and found a noose on it. WHY? WHY? A man who HEARD the Word of God..brought up by a religious, HEARING father..lived in presence of God the Son.....and ruined his life. WHY? How can it be? JUDAS AND JESUS!..and yet this.... LOST! →

(2). Let me set before you another story..with a difference. Setting is just outside a great city called Jericho..down in hot and humid Jordan valley..1,000' plus below level of Mediterranean Sea. One hot day Jesus visited that city..and then moved on..like this..Mark 10:46.

There we meet the third young man..Mark appar. knew him well..for names him immed^{ly} (Matth^{ew} and Luke³..just say "Blind man" no name) Very real person. Son of Timaeus.

That name not nice. ~~Means~~ foreign deriv..Means: "Defiled, polluted, unclean in relig sense." Not nice background for Bartimaeus. What names call him in school? Market? "Here comes son of dirty Dad." And above all this..totally blind. Sat by roadside..tin cup..crying for help. EVER DONE THIS? I have..in spir. sense. Born into dirty world..of dirty race..sin-soiled through and through.. LOST AS JUDAS! Blind to truth..praying begging prayers

to God..with little hope..and fear of future.
But read on! Bartimaeus had kept ears opened..TRULY LISTEN
..vs. 47-51. Glorious! Jesus came near..and B. cried out..
refused to be discouraged by crowd (as some are)..) and
then..."LORD"..that lovely, loving word! "I want to see
..the truth..I want to see YOU." AND FROM OUR SAVIOUR CAME
THE EVER-UNFAILING RESPONSE..vs. 52a. All need met..immed.

Story not quite fin. Jesus said to B.."Go THY WAY".
Free! Open road waiting! B, you have sight..Go..free as
breeze..do OWN THING! Fame, fortune, frolic..live it up!"
TRUE TODAY ..when man, woman comes to Jesus..FREE.."Life
with its path before us lies". LIVE LIKE A JUDAS! WHAT!
Why not?
WAIT! Watch Bartimaeus...vs. 52 "HE FOLLOWED JESUS IN
THE WAY." What way? Our Lord said "I am the way." B.
put his life in the hands of God the Son..walked with Him
in the full, complete will of God.

(3). My stories are told...about the THREE MEN..Judas,
Jesus, Bartimaeus. Two stories..with so diff. an outcome.
WHY? What was the motive Judas lacked..B. found, followed?

ONE THING SUPREMELY...Simply-sheer, glowing GRATITUDE.
- forgotten word

Have we forgotten it? Is this the missing motive?
Isn't it too humanly easy to "Take for granted" instead
of "Taking with gratitude"? - allow greed of this age to dominate?
Judas, taken up with greed instead of gratitude..living a
life centred around Capital "I"..cried at last, in awful
realization "I have BETRAYED the innocent blood". That
word "betrayed" used only once in O.T..but 41 times in NT..
and 38 of those tell of betrayal of Jesus Christ..It peals
into our ears again and again.."I have betrayed Jesus X."
I have sold him for...something. The innocent blood was sh
for me..and I sold out....in sheer ingratitude," God save
us from the Judas path..the man who loved his life..LOST IT

WHAT HAS JESUS CHRIST DONE FOR YOU? God teach us how much!
He gave Himself! and all that those 30 years of spotless
life in a spotted world..and all that Calvary meant at last.
Do you love Him? Thanked Him by lips? Will you thank
Him by life?

Let God speak..call ev. young man, woman, who names the
matchless name of Jesus..to rise and FOLLOW HIM IN THE
WAY." Bible School is part of this..Prep'd as one of

God's loving gifts..A place to get eyes opened to more and more of Word of God...A place to train that grand life God has given.. until fitted for His use...A place to teach the feet to walk "following in the way"..step by step.

Let God speak to all of us. (PARENTS - what want for your children? Fame, wealth, frolics, popularity of world...?? AND BANKRUPT BEFORE GOD'S JUDGMENT SEAT..when come to end of rope of wasted, sorrowful, grief-filled life with noose of regret at end? GOD FORBID! Ev. true father, mother wants very BEST for children. What is it?

Only one thing necessary.."To follow Jesus in the WAY."

Your children need you..and your encouragement. BIBLES Live before them the life of the TENTH LEPER...the one who came to Jesus in gratitude. (We at Berean Bible Collage are ready to help YOU..and your FAMILY.

Many of you invest money there. INVEST YOUR CHILDREN.. in every prayer you make. GOD GIVE US ALL THE GRATITUDE

that is only right...the right of Him who loves us...NOW.

to life & all we have

The Three Men may well be here tonight....Jesus is here... and you..You two at least. And before you the path of life forks. ^{rides with} TURN TO THE RIGHT! Will you? "God helping me I will never betray my Lord..for any offer. I will rise up and follow Him in the Way." Will you?

Jesus: - "I'm going to Haifa"

Prov. 28:13

LOST:- Living without life
Seeing without sight
Knowledge without understanding
Passion without love
Dying without hope
Judgment without an advocate
Eternal existence without God
Suffering without alleviation.

Rum. 32:23 *Be pure your pen will find you out*

LOST! soul - & life

Creation - (Blossom Festival) - May 20/73

Pravos - Mar 14/73

Meadow Lk. Me - CMA - Mar 9/73

Edmonton - Beulah CMA - Jan 7/73

Ross Haven B. Camp - July 15/72

Edmonton Fund. Bch July 9/72

Black Diamond - July 2/72

Ukrainian Bch Youth Rally - Edmonton - May 21/72

Gideons - Vermilion (Hogdoun - Wainwright - Orvis K)

Bethel Bch - Calgary - Jan 23/72 "Bible School Sunday"

Abbotsford Bch. Mar 19/72

Red Deer - Bch. Mar 13/72

Brentwood Bch. Calgary Aug 1/72

Leslieville - Apr. 18/76

Luseland B. Camp

July 9/73

Bow Valley Bch. Bch. -

July 29/73

Granby CMA April 9/73

Innisfail - Feb 10/74

Gem - MTB - Oct 6/74

Battle Lk Bch - Feb 23/75

Nov. 28:13

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper
but whose confesseth + forsaketh them,
shall have mercy"

Let God speak to all of us. PARENTS - what want for your
children? Fame, wealth, position, popularity of world...?
AND BARRIBUT BEFORE GOD'S JUDGMENT SEAT. When come to end
of rope of wasted, sorrowful, grief-filled life with
noose of regret at end? GOD FORTH! Ev. true father,
mother wants very BEST for children. What is it?
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every prayer you make. GOD GIVE US ALL THE GRATITUDE
that is only right... the right of Him who loves us... NOW.

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and you. At least. And before you the path of
this fork. TURN TO THE NIGHT! Will you? "God helping
me I will never betray my lord... for any offer. I will
rise up and follow Him in the way." Will you?

LOST - Living without life
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Knowledge without understanding
Feast on without love
Dying without hope
Judgment without an advocate
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Mk. 10:46 "And they came to Jericho; and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples, and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging.

47-51 "And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me.

And many charged him that he should hold his peace, but he cried the more a great deal, Thou son of David, have mercy on me.

And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And the call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise: he calleth thee. And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus.

And Jesus answered, and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight.

52a And Jesus said unto him, GO THY WAY, thy faith hath made thee whole..and immediately he received his sight.

52. And Jesus said unto him. GO THY WAY, thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and FOLLOWED JESUS IN THE WAY."

*Red Deer Lk B. Camp - Living Springs - CMA - Dayland +
Camrose - Aug 18/79.
Berean Chapel - Apr. 17/80*