

How Will You Respond?

“⁴⁸Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, ‘The One I kiss, He’s the One—seize Him!’ ⁴⁹And immediately Judah drew near to Yeshua and said, ‘Shalom, Rabbi!’ and kissed Him. ⁵⁰‘Friend,’ Yeshua said to him, ‘do what you’ve come to do.’ Then they came up and threw their hands on Yeshua and seized Him...³Then Judah, His betrayer, saw that Yeshua had been condemned. Feeling remorse, he brought the thirty silver pieces back to the ruling kohanim and elders,⁴saying, ‘I’ve sinned, betraying innocent blood!’ But they said, ‘What’s that to us? You see to it yourself!’⁵After tossing the silver into the Temple sanctuary, he left. Then he went off and hanged himself” (Matt. 26:48-50; 27:3-5)

How often have you (and I) betrayed *Adonai or Yeshua*? We would like to say never when we should say *just a little while ago*. We know to do good, we know the correct behavior, but we turn away. Often it is because we had arranged for a reward. Do not kid yourself, Scripture says there is a reward for sinning, and the enemy convinces us that it is not death, but it is. Unless we can look in His eyes and experience His Love in the time of great sin, we will receive the agreed-upon reward and then we’ll despair. When we follow our plan even to double-cross Him, how will you respond when *Yeshua* in His Love intercepts us and beholds us? Will we respond in humility, fall on our knees, and ask Him to forgive us? If we do not, we will then follow through with our fleshly plans and reject Him and despair. The example of Judas is clear, despair at that magnitude leads to death and eternal damnation.

*“³¹‘Simon, Simon! Indeed, satan has demanded to sift you all like wheat. ³²But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith will not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.’ ³³But Simon said to Him, ‘Master, I am ready to go with You even to prison and to death!’ ³⁴But Yeshua said, ‘I tell you, Peter, a rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me ... ⁶⁰...And immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. ⁶¹And the Lord turned and **looked straight** at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, ‘Before the rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times. ⁶²And Peter went out and wept bitterly” (Luke 22:31-34; 60-62)*

As awful and serious as Peter’s sin was, it was not the unpardonable sin! So, what response are we prepared to give today? When we fail to be *Pesach* people; when the Blood after applied is ignored; when we leave the safety of the blood-stained lintels of His love and wander into the night of horrors and the world; when we mess up; and when we *know better* go ahead and sin and ruin our lives, the resurrection kicks in, and we are given *a second chance*. This is what Peter and the rest of the disciples experienced. The same power is available to us today. Is *Yeshua* really the Lord of a second chance? How often can we sin and be forgiven? Messiah addressed forgiveness in Matthew 18. It is seventy times seven!

We marvel at the possibility of having to forgive someone 70x7 times daily! According to *Yeshua*, this applies to the Kingdom of Heaven of which you and I are citizens. How often can the Lord forgive us? A lot more than Satan wants us to be aware of. The guilt of unforgiveness is among his choicest of weapons against believers. Are you weary and heavy laden with the burden of sin in your life? Won’t you resolve today to accept His forgiveness and start over as a solid citizen of the Kingdom, a child of the King? We also note that our release is conditional – it is entirely based upon our *forgiving our brother from our hearts*. Is there someone who has hurt you and trespassed against you that you have not forgiven? The Feast of Firstfruits beckons tonight. Lay those burdens down! Look into His eyes, receive His love, choose to forgive, and be yourself forgiven!

⁸If we say we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us. ¹My children, I am writing these things to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an Intercessor with the Father—the righteous Messiah Yeshua. ²He is the atonement for our sins, and not only for our sins but also for the whole world” (1 John 1:8-2:2)