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### REMARKS ON MATTHEW xxvi. 47-75.

Let us regard the conduct of Judas in its proper light. It was treachery of the deepest dye. It was premeditated. He revolved the matter for a long time in his mind. He contemplated it beforehand, and kept it steadily before him till his purpose was accomplished. It was in the face of warning. His purpose was not hid from Christ, and Christ gave him to understand that he was cognizant of his intention, "Verily I say unto you that one of you shall betray me." And when Judas asked: "Is it I?" Christ answered: "thou hast said;" which was equivalent to admitting the fact. This should have put Judas on his guard, should have awakened his repentance, and made him shrink from so black a deed. He should have felt how unbecoming, how ungrateful, how wicked, to cherish such a purpose. All his relentings should have kindled at such a moment. His friendship for Christ, if he ever cherished any, should have revived. Christ's uniform kindness, his amiableness, if nothing more, all his admirable qualities, should have spoken in his favor, and made Judas revolt from the contemplated act. The circumstances, too, in which Christ announced the fact of his betrayal, should have operated upon Judas. Sitting at the same table, commemorating the same feast, and dipping in the same dish, it should have been impossible for him to cherish in his heart so black a treachery. The act was deliberately gone about. He went and consulted with the chief Priests what he should deliver up Jesus for. "Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto

*them*, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver" And it is added in the 16th verse, "And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him". And then at last the act was done under the mask of friendship. It was with a "hail master!" and a kiss.

Every sin that the professed follower of Christ commits, is a betrayal of Christ. It is an act of treachery. It is all the worse if it is premeditated—if it is deliberately done—still worse if it is done in opposition to warning, and in spite of kindness, notwithstanding all Christ's admonitions and threatenings, and all his grace and goodness. Have we never delivered over Christ to his enemies, to be mocked, and to be scourged, and to be spit upon? Have we never joined his revilers, and his crucifiers? Have we given no countenance to the deed by which he was nailed to the tree? This is done in every sin after we have come to the knowledge of the truth. And let us remember that the smallest sins of Christ's followers are to be thus regarded. Or, they are like Peter's sin when he denied his Lord. Let us beware of thus betraying Christ. Let us look upon every sin as treachery, as betraying, or denying, the Lord that bought us. Shall we *sell him who bought us—bought us with his own precious blood!* shall we sell him for so trifling a recompense?

Verse 52. Christ here enunciates a most important principle connected with his kingdom. It matters not how trifling the incident is which calls forth the expression of it. In the most trifling act there may often be involved a great prin-