

too deep for the tongue. So how could the neighbours know of that only son whose brightness and bonniness had gone down in sin till he came under the law and had to flee. Nor did any know if he were alive or dead save that his mother felt in her heart that he was still alive. But how she knew, the God who made and cares for mother hearts alone knows.

But back to Drumshalloo. "You will be noticing, my friends, that there's nae mention o' Judas' faither, Simon, outside o' four times in the Gospel o' John. Noo why think ye does John mention him in writing this Gospel for the early Christians o' Asia? I'm thinking it will be just as if I was writing tae you and I wad say, 'I met John Kennedy's son.' Noo I wad'na write that forbye that I had kenned John Kennedy mysel' an' that you had kenned something o' him yourselves. Frae that I gather that Simon was in aifter years a Christian and kenned baith by John an' tae the churches o' Asia. I can juist shut ma een an' see the auld man wi' snawy hair an' beard, an' the proud auld Jewish face an' dignified bearing, his countenance marked wi' a joy in Christ nae man could take awa' frae him, aye an' wi' a sair sorrow he could'na take away frae himsel'.

"It may be that some time when they were at Jerusalem Judas had taen John owre the hills south thirty mile tae Kerieth, or it may be that aifter the betrayal an' death that Simon in his great sorrow learned frae John the wonderful love o' Jesus. But some time they met and they talked o' Judas.

"And the auld man wad tell tae John the story o' the childhood o' Judas. He wad speak o' ae far gone day when intil the new hame at Kerieth came the cry o' the first-born, and Miriam the mither—it might ha' been Miriam, it was a common name—had lookit from the wee babe up till him an' said, 'Simon, do ye see the glint o' his wee een and the firm grasp o' his wee hands?' Ah me! 'An' do ye no' think we might ca' him Judah aifter the faither o' oor tribe?' Or it might be when he was tauld mither and bairn were baith doein' weel that Simon had said, 'God be praised,' and Miriam had said, 'Aye, let that be his name.' For ye ken Judah was his name, an' it dis'na mean 'scoundrel' as the Greek form 'Judas' seems tae you tae mean. But 'Judah' means juist 'praised.' Sae 'praised' they

ca'd him. And sae he wad tell tae John a' the bonny things o' the bairn's childhood, his ploys an' his wark and hoo gude he was at the schule, and especially at figures, aye an' whatna' great future they expekit for him. An' hoo ta'en up they were wi' his being ane o' the disciples o' the new Rabbi Jesus, though Simon wad be against that at the last."

"An' what an' awfu' blow was the ill news that tauld o' the shameful betrayal an' the awfu' death, an' hoo Judah's mither could'na thole it, but wasted awa' wi' a broken heart. Aifter that hoo he could'na bear tae stay in the hame wi' its awfu' loneliness an' at long last had tae leave it an' gae awa'.

"Ye mind Peter said it, 'Let his habitation be desolate and let no man dwell therein.' Aye, it was fulfilled, and ye can weel think that as lang as the crummlin' walls stood aye stane upo' the ither the neighbours wad point it out: 'The house o' Simon! Faither o' Judas, ye ken, that betrayed his Lord.'

"Like enough he wad come first tae Jerusalem, but he could'na bide there, for wherever he wad gang sorrow wad be there before him. On this street the upper room frae which his boy went out into the dark that night; this one the way he walked wi' the soldiers; out o' this gate Gethsemane, an' out o' that Calvary, an' out o' that the Potter's Field. Na, na, he could'na bear it, an' sae he wad wander far awa' up by Ephesus an' somewhere he wad find the love o' Jesus for his soul. An' in the wee churches o' the early days they wad see coming in the auld man wi' the snawy hair an' the marks o' the Lord's purifyin' fires o' sorrow an' joy in his face.

"They wad see he was a man wi' a message, an' when they wad ask him for a bit word he wad rise up an' tak the Book an' turn tae ane o' the passages maybe in Luke. 'But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of Man with a kiss?' And then he wad say wi' a breaking voice, 'That was my son.'

"O my brethren, think o' that. There wad be a maist awfu' stillness an' soreness in their hearts as they listened till him saying, 'O faithers, are yir boys saved? There's no ae thing tae come afore that. Are ye prayin' for them? Are ye prayin' wi' them? O, woe is me, are ye settin' them a richt example? I was hard