

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## “What is that to us?”

(Jerry Fite)

IT was a vulnerable moment for Judas. He felt remorse for betraying Jesus. The dawning of the new day ushered the reality of Jesus standing condemned into Judas’ conscience. He felt the wrong he had done and was returning the thirty pieces of betrayal money to the Jewish authorities. He said, “*I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.*” What he heard was far from comforting. The chief priests and elders reply, “*What is that to us? See to that yourself*” (Matthew 27:4).

The authorities had what they wanted. Jesus had been arrested, condemned and on his way to being put to death. In essence they were saying “Judas, if you have a problem with your conscience, we really do not care, you are on your own.”

Judas was facing the harsh reality of human behavior. Man can be selfish and not really concerned for others, except for what they can gain from others. Judas should not be surprised by the response of the chief priests and elders. He was really looking in the mirror at his own character. Earlier, Judas had complained that expensive perfume could have been sold to help the poor instead of being used for ointment on Je-

sus’ feet. “*Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.*” (John 12:6). Judas only saw the poor as a way to enrich his own pockets. He did not really care about them being destitute and hurting. What was that to him?

The heart of the Christian should never see the needs in others and think, “What is that to me.” Paul reminds us that having the mind of Christ and manifesting true love, we “. . . *do not merely look out for your own interests, but also for the interests of others*”. Looking out for our own interests was not to be viewed through selfishness for we are to “*do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself* (Philippians 2: 3, 4). The other person’s situation and circumstances are on our radar screen, not to exploit for our selfish ends, but to see how we can help in the moment of need. We do not say, “What is that to me?” We react by thinking, “How can I be of help in this time of need?”

Paul truly cared for the spiritual well-being of his brethren. He writes, “*I do not seek what is yours, but you.*” (2 Corinthians 12:14). What a contrast to other teachers who proclaimed messages “*they should not teach, for the sake of sordid gain*”; and acted religiously selfishly thinking “*that godliness is a means of gain*” (Titus 1:11, 1 Timothy 6:5).

Teaching the truth and truly living godly before others is not to see what we can gain from others, but how we can save ourselves and help others go to Heaven (1 Timothy 4:16).

Along life’s way we may have an opportunity to help one who is spiritually vulnerable. Like Judas, one may be crying out for help to ease one’s conscience. Do you say, “What is that to me?” Hopefully, we will listen to their cry and lead them to Christ who can cleanse their conscience through forgiveness (Hebrews 9:14, 1 Peter 3:2, 1 Jn. 1:9).

Judas, alone with his remorse, did see to it himself by throwing the thirty pieces of silver in the temple area, probably where the treasury was collected. Then he went and hanged himself. “What is that to us?”