

## **Just Like Judas's Kiss**

***I wonder how it makes you feel when the prodigal won't come home***

***I wonder how it makes you feel when he'd rather be on his own***

***I wonder what it's like for you when a lamb has gone astray***

***I wonder what it's like for you when your children disobey***

***I wonder how it makes you feel when no one seeks your face***

***I wonder how it makes you feel when they give up in the race***

***I wonder what it's like for you when they willingly disobey***

***I wonder what it's like for you when they willingly walk away***

***It must be like another thorn stuck in your brow***

***It must be like another close friend's broken vow***

***It must be like another nail right through your wrist***

***It must be just like Judas' kiss***

**(Lyrics from the Song "Judas' Kiss" by the Christian Band, Petra)**

The summer of 1992, shortly after the birth of my son, Joel, I was approached by Happy Sykes, a Deacon of the church our family was attending called Sunset Point Baptist. The Deacon body of the 350+ membership church was instituting what they called a Jr. Deacon program to train young men for two years and then be ordained as a deacon of the church. It was an honor for me to be asked along with two other men. Out of the three of us I was the only one to be ordained as a Deacon for the other men had to drop out due to personal and spiritual issues. Other young men were approached but could not meet with the standards set by Paul in 1st Timothy 3:8-12.

This has been a constant struggle for all churches for many years. To find what Tony Evans has called "Kingdom Men" to serve the church through ministry and in reaching others with Gospel. Over the years the Deacon Body has become more of a Board of Directors in many of our churches that dictate and run the church instead of serving and being an example of Godly leadership. 1st Timothy 3:8-9 says, ***"In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. 9 They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience."*** Verse 9 is the cornerstone of serving as a Deacon. So many men have lost their way because they focused on personal interests and agendas instead of serving, helping, and ministering to the lost, broken, and needy. Today, many pastors, ministers, Christian artists, and former believers are leaving behind the "deep truths of the faith" renouncing their beliefs, and leading many astray with false teachings and doctrines.

Should we be surprised that this is happening? Absolutely not! The Bible has many references that prophecy to a great "falling away" of the faith leading into the end times. Other terms used are "rebellion" and "apostasy." **Hebrews 6:4-6** says, ***"It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace."*** This passage speaks of one who once identified as a follower of Christ and later made a decisive, final, and public choice to renounce Him. Such a person may have once appeared to have a vibrant and living faith. Yet at some point afterward, they made a decisive choice to reject Jesus - in other words they "crucified the Son of God again to themselves, putting Him to open shame." After all that they once experienced, their final position on Jesus was in essence that He was nothing more than an imposter or deceiver and was therefore rightfully crucified as a criminal. The lamb had gone astray, willingly disobeyed, and walked away. To Jesus, it must have been just like Judas' kiss.

***"When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."*** (Luke 21:28)

***Bro. Andrew***