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April 29, 1994, Morning Minchah Boston

Betray

If we've become disciples, it means we've been drawn by Him and we're taught by Him. If we've never been drawn by Him we won't have the ears or the tongue of a disciple (Jn 6:44-45). All who have the ears and the tongue of a disciple are taught by God. If not, we have never passed out of death and into life. (Jn 6:44-45 is a prophecy of the time when our Father is choosing disciples.)

To *betray* is to be disloyal (like Judas). Judas betrayed our Master and then went out and hung himself because he felt guilty. Did Peter betray our Master? No. What did Peter do? He denied our Master. He disowned our Master out of fear of death. What does it mean to disown? Can you disown our Master? What happens if we disown Him? He'll disown us. If we're ashamed of Him, He'll be ashamed of us when He returns with His holy angels (Mk 8:38). That's a promise.

So Peter denied Him. Why? Out of fear of death (fear for his life). In his weakness, in his flesh, he denied our Master. But what Peter did wasn't premeditated like Judas's sin. His sin was calculated (Judas earned money for his sin, like a person who works on the Shabbat to earn money). What Peter did wasn't deliberate — it was an unintentional sin. In the old covenant an unintentional sin was forgivable (Num 15:22-29), but there was no offering for a deliberate sin such as Judas's (Num 15:30-31). This carries over into the new covenant (Heb 10:26-31). If we deliberately sin there's no longer a sacrifice for us. God knows His own and will chastise us. We must know this so we will never transgress (like Derush). Those who aren't listening to this teaching will commit a deliberate sin someday because it is the Word of God being read and you won't have the ears of a disciple. If we deny Him, He'll deny us (2 Tim 2:11-13). Remember this scripture so you can use it effectively when you're talking to people.

Peter denied our Master three times. He was in the vortex of sin (Gal 6:1). If a brother or sister is caught up in the vortex (they got into it, but not deliberately) then one of us who is spiritual (not carnal, but in tune and in communion with our Master) can go and talk to him. Jude

22-23 is a warning to us to be spiritual when we go and talk to him (a fleshly man will be taken in). Peter got into the vortex and denied our Master three times, but when our Master looked at him, he was so sorry and he mourned at where he was at. He was in the vortex and someone turned him back (his soul was saved from death). If this has happened for us we should have great admiration in us that our Master has saved us from death.

It is good if some listen to what is being said and some don't. Our Master's name is one that causes division, even among us. This shows who belongs to the Prince of Peace and who belongs to the evil one. It tests us to see what's in us. Our children learn to listen at an early age. Our Master listened from infancy on up to what was being spoken in the temple. When I was 5 or 6 years old I feared when I heard what the Bible said. I was raised to listen (even in the apostate system) the way our Master was raised.

Judas went out and hung himself because of his guilt. But Peter drew closer to our Master and he was a source of strength to his brothers from then on.

Christopher: I want to encourage my brothers, but I still see the ways in me from the world. I want to hate the flesh — not movies or things like that, but the worldly spirit of religion. I want to cut it off.

We can see how we've betrayed our Master, but we'll come to full repentance by our life in the Body.

Sameach: There are so many little things we can do every day to make progress in the Body (like doing our chore). It is so easy to give ourselves to the things that hold us back, yet so hard to give ourselves to the things that advance us. I want to make progress.

Let's do the things that express love to one another. Our Father wants to give us everything we need to live godly lives. Don't do things that hurt our love for our brothers. What can we do that others would say, "He *loves* his brother."