

Road to Atonement



3 Trial of Faith

Betrayal

*But Satan had taken possession of Judah... who was of the number of the twelve. **Lk 22:3, Lamsa***

Betrayal by whom?



Not just one man!

*Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people... With one voice they **[Judah]** cried out, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!” ...they **[Judah]** kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” ...with loud shouts they **[Judah]** insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their **[Judah’s]** shouts prevailed. **Lk 23:13-23***

*He came to that which was his own **[Judah]**, but his own did not receive him. **Jn 1:11***

The Invisibility of Treachery

“I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me.” They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, “Surely not I, Lord?” **Mt 26:21-22**

**No-one knew Judas was the traitor of whom Jesus spoke
– treachery can be invisible**



“Surely not I, Lord?”

They all suspected themselves!
They were all correct

The Lord on Trial

“You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me”

Lk 22:28-29

The Lord Jesus is still on trial - more so now than ever!

The Lord on Trial

The Rise of Islam

“God is only one God! Far be it from his glory that he should have a son!” Sura 4:169



The Rise of Intellectual Atheism



Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Rom 1:22-23

A photograph of three people (two men and one woman) laughing heartily and pointing their fingers towards the camera. They are dressed in business casual attire. The background is plain white.

*“Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping.” And they ridiculed Him. **Mk 5:39-40***

The Rise of Cynicism

*When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered **Acts 17:32***

The Rise of Materialism

Aaron:

“Here are your gods, O Israel!”

Ex 32:4

Jeroboam:

“Here are your gods, O Israel!”

1 Kgs 12:28

Today:

“Here are your gods, O Israel!”



What caused the Golden Calf to be made?

- Moses, the man of God, went up to commune with God *Ex 19:20*
- Gone so long it was agreed he wasn't coming back *Ex 32:1*
- People abandoned God; worshipped Golden Calf *Ex 32:4*



- Jesus, the man of God, went up to commune with God *Acts 1:9*
- Gone so long it was agreed he wasn't coming back *2 Pet 3:3-4*
- People abandoned God; worshipped Golden Calf *2 Tim 3:2*

The Lord on Trial

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Peter's Early Trial



Peter followed at a distance. But when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. Lk 22:54-55



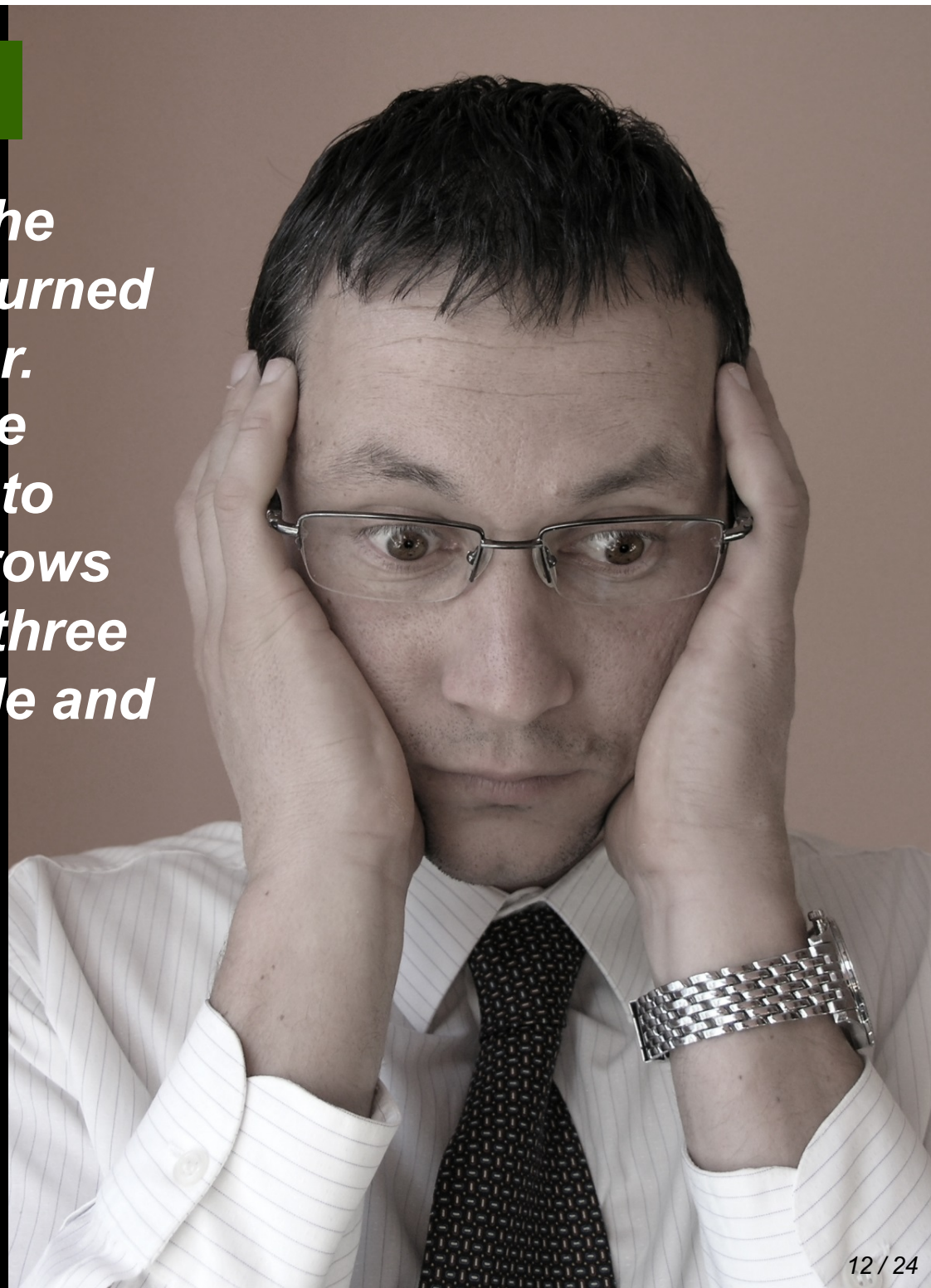
Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. Psa 1:1

***“This man was with him.” But he denied it.
“Woman, I don’t know him” Lk 22:56-57***

Vision of Judgment Day

*Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly. **Lk 22:60-62***

**On Judgment Day we will
see the Lord face to face
- and we will know**



Paralysis / Catharsis

Judas betrays Jesus
(intentionally)

Mt 26:14-16

Judas feels remorse

Mt 27:3-4

Judas doesn't see
mercy: his remorse
is paralyzing

Judas kills himself

Mt 27:5

Peter betrays Jesus
(blindly)

Lk 22:54-60

Peter feels remorse

Lk 22:61-62

Peter sees mercy: his
remorse is energizing

Peter becomes a pillar
of the early church

Gal 2:9

I betray Jesus... I feel remorse... what now?

So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?” If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.” Jn 18:29-30

Petitio Principii – Even the Jews couldn't think of any charges

*So from that day on they
made plans to put him to
death. **Jn 11:53***



***“Lazarus, come out!”
Jn 11:43***

True and False Witnesses at Trial

*Finally two came forward and declared, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.’” Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” But Jesus remained silent. **Mt 26:60-63***

Did they misunderstand Jesus’ prophecy?

*Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” But the temple he had spoken of was his body. **Jn 2:19-21***

True and False Witnesses at Trial

The next day... the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first." **Mt 27:62-64**

They always knew what the prophecy meant!



Our Trials

Jesus' Preaching

*“Lord, teach us to pray...”
He said to them, “When
you pray, say: ‘Father...
lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.’”*

Lk 11:1-4

Jesus' Practice

*“Away from me, Satan!
‘Worship the Lord your
God, and serve him only.’”*

Mt 4:10



Don't toy with sin

***not* “Look but don't touch”**

Our Trials

Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature

Rom 13:14



Praetorium

Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?" **Mt 26:67-68**

Jesus' prophecy makes their question rhetorical:

"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him ...He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God." **Jn 8:44-47**

**Everyone reflects the image of their father.
Our lives give evidence to which father we belong
We either slap Jesus' face or bow before him**

Guilt: The Declaration of Innocence

“[Pilate] took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!”

Mt 27:24

“Where is your brother Abel?” “I don’t know,” [Cain] replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?” **Gen 4:9**

The LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. Now you are under a curse...” **Gen 4:10-11**

**Guilty of the spilled blood
- as was Pilate**

Innocence: The Declaration of Guilt

“These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from? ... These are they who have... washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple.”

Rev 7:13-15

Pilate's hands made bloody by washing in water
Saints robes made white by washing in blood

Spiritual world is opposite to natural world

**Present day temple is our body;
so service to God must be held there**

Service in the Temple



=> What I do is what I believe

A photograph of a courtroom interior. The room features red walls, white columns, and a large wooden bench. An American flag stands on the left, and a bust is on a pedestal. Two lamps are on the bench. A doorway is visible in the background. A black metal railing with fleur-de-lis finials is in the foreground.

My Trial of Faith

The Lord is still on trial
The evidence I give is my lifestyle



The Mark of Blood

My identity in Christ comes from
my actions beyond the meal



Prayer in the Garden

Do I pray: "Father, give me"
or "Father make me"?



Trial of Faith

The Lord is still on trial
The evidence I give is my lifestyle



The Pierced Slave

Road to Atonement

We walk the same road Jesus
did – the Road to Atonement

*Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where
are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I
am going, you cannot follow now, but
you will follow later." Jn 13:35-36*