

From Traitors to Beloved
Matthew 28: 1-6

April 5, 2026

Biblical traitor = individuals who break trust, break covenant and break loyalty to God, motivated by greed and power

Lucifer/Satan = traitor

Adam and Eve = traitor

Humanity = traitor

Divine wrath awaits every traitor – **Romans 5: 9-10**

Easter Sunday is about remembering our Lord's sacrifice (*freeing believers from divine wrath, the consequence of traitorous sin*)

**The Godhead is in complete harmony, complete unity,
and is fully satisfied within Himself**

aseity

Latin: *a-* (form), *se* (self)

**the divine attribute
of self-existence**

In theology, the **aseity** of God asserts God's **independence**, where He depends on **no external cause** for His **existence**.

God's Attributes

God is not only wise, he is wisdom. God's power is not only a force but the power of a real person exerting his will. God is not only holy, he is holiness. God is not only just, he is justice. God is not only good, he is goodness. And God is not only truthful, he is truth.

Fact Truth & Reality

*Pastor and Teacher
Charles Spurgeon*



GOD IS NOT DEPENDENT ON HIS OWN
CREATION. HE CAN MAKE
LIGHT WITHOUT A SUN.
HE CAN SPREAD THE GOSPEL WITHOUT
THE AID OF MINISTERS;
HE CAN CONVERT SOULS WITHOUT ANY
HUMAN OR ANGELIC METHOD.
FOR HE DOES AS HE WILLS IN THE HEAVENS
ABOVE AND ON THE EARTH BENEATH.

Creation exists for God's delight and humans are to find their highest pleasure in Him

Because God is free, He created His highest creation (*angels and humans*) with the freedom to choose

Loyalty to God was tested and broken through disobedience

The command to provide for and to protect mankind was crystal clear
Genesis 2: 17

The snake tempts, Adam and Eve eat, and the rest is history – *sad day!*
Genesis 3: 1-6

This was treason, disloyalty to God; the consequences have reverberated to the present day

The consequence of treason / sin is death – **Ezekiel 18: 20**

Romans 6: 23

Satan's consequence: The Skull Crusher, Jesus Christ, will crush your head at the cross

The First Gospel message: **Genesis 3: 15**

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you will bruise His heel.”

In God's love, there was provision made for mankind's foreseen traitorous act – **John 3: 16**

The Arrest of Jesus:

Jesus allowed Himself to be taken into custody; it was God's preordained plan – **John 18: 4-8**

Pilate presents Jesus to the rabid crowd, *“Behold your King! But they cried out Crucify Him!”*

Pilate caves and delivers Jesus to be crucified – **the death sentence has been decreed!**

The Cross:

Crucified between two criminals

The agony

The humiliation of hanging naked before the crowd

His own mother present

Jesus does something unheard of, *“Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”* – Luke 23: 34

One of the thieves took notice, he said, *“Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”*

This thief, this sinful man, *went from traitor to beloved in a moment of time!*

Jesus hung on the cross for six hours

From the sixth to the ninth hour there was supernatural darkness over all the earth

Why the darkness?

God is pouring out His wrath on His Son that was destined for me!

THIS WAS THE AGONY OF THE CROSS!

This prompted these words of agony and abandonment:

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

Jesus then gives a cry of triumph, ***“It is finished!”*** – ***“tetelastai”***

My sin debt paid in full!

Jesus' death and burial looked so dark, the cause shattered, disciples in hiding, all hope is lost!

The Resurrection: Matthew 28: 1-6

Resurrection Sunday, the women came to the tomb, it was empty! The angel says, ***“HE IS RISEN!”***

Folks: The tomb was empty; this screams ***HE IS RISEN!***

Recall, the thief on the cross said yes to the Man on the middle cross – *SO CAN YOU TODAY!*

Like the thief on the cross, hopefully you realize, this Guy on the middle cross, *HE IS DIFFERENT!!*

I want to be with this Guy; wherever He goes, that is where I want to go! ***I WANT TO FOLLOW JESUS!***

Jesus is calling you, to no longer be a world
follower, *but a JESUS FOLLOWER!*

FROM TRAITOR TO BELOVED IN A MOMENT!

Jesus is calling, *can you hear Him now?*

***FROM TRAITOR TO BELOVED
ALL BECAUSE OF JESUS!***

O, HOW I LOVE JESUS

BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED ME!



HE IS RISEN!!

HE IS RISEN INDEED!!!