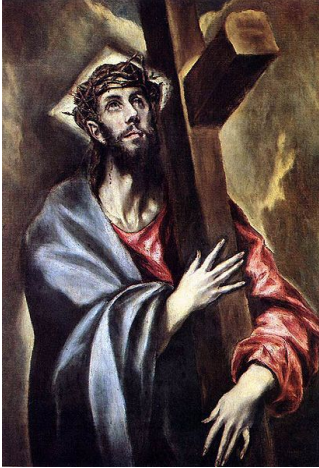


## 2<sup>nd</sup> Station of the Cross (Traditional), 7<sup>th</sup> Station (Modern) Jesus takes up his Cross



*"When the chief priests and the guards saw [Jesus] they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him." They cried out, "Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha."*  
~John 19: 6, 15-17

*Christ Carrying the Cross. El Greco. (c. 1602)  
Museo del Prado*

Kingship is a very important theme in this story. Moses lead his people out of bondage from a tyrannical king, who saw himself as the divine representation of God on Earth – the Pharaoh, who enslaved and tortured people to the furtherance of his wealth, power and self glorification.

Now in the story, the people are selling out to the oppressor king, Caesar. Depending on how you interpret the story, Jesus was either betraying those that wanted a revolution against the Roman oppressors, or he was betraying the church authorities who were getting rich and fat exploiting their own people and paying obeisance to Caesar.

In either case the story is about an external allegiance to the ruling king of the day. What is the king inside of you that keeps you focused on the external world of gain and loss, pleasure and pain, addiction and denial? What is the king that rules your soul into oppression and does not allow it to blossom and grow? When will you start befriending your own soul? And how do you do that?

Can you recognize yourself in this painting by El Greco.

Your soul is bleeding, oppressed, humiliated and shamed, denied and hated, having to carry the burden of all the dualities of your mind. Your intellect and defenses rule and demand, deny and hate. It is King.

How will you shift your allegiance from the external to the Internal? From oppression to Freedom?  
From hate to Love? From lies to Truth? From the intellect to the Heart?

- Given that Jesus (you) are determined to live your truth and not deny who you are, what aspect of self is the internal Judas betraying? Or is Judas really aligned with the purpose of his Higher Self in love?
- Given that Jesus (you) are still struggling in the ego and do not want to be true to your purpose and destiny, what aspect is Judas in you? How does your ego feel betrayed?
- Given that Judas (you) wanted a violent rebellion against the Roman occupation, how did Jesus as your Higher Self betray you?

Really work to understand the story as an internal story representing two aspects of the Self. Consider the relationship from both sides.

- What dynamic process and stage of development does this part of the story represent?
- Why does Judas commit this seeming act of betrayal with a kiss? In Luke 22:48 Jesus says, "Is it with a kiss that you are betraying the *son of man*?" Not the son of God?

- If Satan entered Judas, then is the whole sequence of events were the work of Satan? Or of God? (Where do Satan and God live?)
- What do you think is the significance of 30 pieces of silver? Look up not only the social meaning of the time, but also the esoteric, metaphysical meaning.

*“The nation of Love differs from all others.  
Lovers bear allegiance to no nation or sect.  
Either take up your axe and strike  
like Ali at the gates of Khaybar.  
(a heavily fortified city in Arabia)  
Or join these thorns with a rose:  
Bring your fire to God’s light in order that  
your fire will disappear in His light,  
and all your thorns become roses.”*

*~Rumi*