



Saint Marie Eugenie of Jesus

February 27, 1881

### The Betrayal of Judas

My dear Daughters,

After the mystery of the agony of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Garden of Olives, it is the betrayal of Judas that we should meditate on together. I leave this subject to your meditations. By what influences, by what paths did he, who was a disciple, who was a priest, who was perhaps a bishop—for we do not know exactly at what moment Jesus Christ conferred this anointing—but who was certainly an Apostle and in the company of Jesus, by what degrees did he fall to this point?

Take the Holy Gospel; nothing is more useful than to study in the Gospel the story of one of the Gospel figures, whether a saint, or, alas! a reprobate like Judas. See how he gave way to the spirit of criticism, to blame, to resentment, to independence, a little at first, then a great deal.

We always talk about his attachment to money, but there was much more to it. See how far he let himself be drawn, and how violent everything became within him, when he gave in to this passion that caused his despair. We must study all this, because ultimately we must always guard our hearts against the slightest attachment to evil dispositions that can lead us to evil. We must know that every inclination, even venial, that we retain within ourselves, has its consequences, bears fruit, and leads us further. Then we must meditate on the immense pain Our Lord felt.

We said last time that agony was the passion of the heart. The betrayal of Judas was the complement of this passion of the heart and soul of Our Lord Jesus Christ. See also how Our Lord conducted Himself and endured this betrayal. Then compare all this with certain facts known to us from the history of the Church. How many people, after having started well, allowed themselves to be carried away! Their pride dominated. They felt the need to shake off the yoke, they had some attachment, that of money or of a human affection that was not in order, and how did they get there? This is often the history of heretics, of great sinners, of those who, in the Church, have given rise to great scandals.

As for me, I have known some who, after having been faithful to the duties of their profession, became a scandal to the world, because they left their vocation. Their fall began with contempt for the rules and duties of religious life. I will remind you, among others, of this unfortunate priest who continues, alas! to perform the functions of a priest<sup>1</sup>. He told me one day, while speaking to me of the customs of Carmel, that it was outdated, that these rules were senseless and impossible. He mocked, he despised this or that in the little rules of his Order. This was the beginning of the fall that you know.

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<sup>1</sup> This must be about Fr. Hyacinthe (Loyson).

The betrayal of Judas is therefore a very useful meditation for us, not only to preserve us from the last temptation, but also to guard us from all the small faults which diminish the perfection of our vocation. It is also very useful to console Our Lord, to follow Him, to heal by our love the very deep wound He has received and to accustom ourselves, throughout our lives and on every occasion, to bear Him a love of compassion, to compensate Him for the betrayals of which He is the object and the wounds He receives from those by whom He should be loved.