

## **WOULD THEY KNOW WHERE TO FIND YOU?**

The Biblical record of the events surrounding the death of Christ is something I find myself reading over and over. It intrigues me. It fascinates me, and it seems that I always discover something new as I study. One cannot help but be touched as he reads about the events surrounding the death of our Lord. The pain, anguish, heartache, and suffering which our Lord endured as he faced the cross overwhelm me as I read and contemplate those events. A statement found in conjunction with the events encompassing the death of Jesus grabbed my attention as I was reading it one day. As Jesus prayed in the garden, Judas was busy gathering the entourage which would arrest our Lord, lead him to the false trials, and eventually crucify him. John records, "And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples" (Jn.18:2). Judas knew exactly where to find Jesus! Evidently Jesus had spent much time in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane even before these dark hours prior to his death on the cross. Judas had likely witnessed Jesus praying in the Garden on a number of occasions, perhaps even being instructed about prayer in that very place.

This passage got me to thinking. Suppose our government attempted to eliminate anything and anyone associated with the true religion of Christ. Suppose also that one of your closest companions were called upon by the government to disclose your whereabouts on a Sunday morning (or Sunday evening, or Wednesday evening). Would he/she know where to find you? Would he know beyond a doubt that you were assembled with the saints to worship God because you love to be in the worship assembly to praise God and encourage your brethren (Psa.122:1)? Would she know that nothing would keep you from the assembly, save for terrible sickness or circumstances beyond your control (Heb.10:25)? Or would he be unable to disclose where you were, knowing that you could be in any number of places? Would she search the ballgames, the lake, the golf course, or the shopping malls before seeking you in the house of God? Are you faithful in your involvement in the Lord's church to the extent that all who know you know that you will support the works of the church with your attendance, your finances, your prayers, and your energy? Or is your faith so fickle that none can get a "handle on you?"

May all of God's children "resort oftentimes thither" to the services of the church and to our private sanctuaries of study and prayer. May we be so faithful in both our public and private devotions that all of the Judases of the world may "know the place."

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