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# The Orthodox Remnant Testimony

Gospel Tract No. 3.

## *Treason and Murder— Guilty Men*

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R.T.5

*Available from the Author:—*(Id. plus postage)

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The Majesty of the Gospel.

The English law of treason and treason felony contains an interesting list of crimes against the State. My reason for referring to the law of treason, however, is that various aspects of it provide a suitable illustration of the truth of the Gospel, and show the true nature of man's sin and his responsibility to God in relation to the message of the Gospel.

Without being in any way exhaustive, there are five interesting categories of treason and allied offences which may be used for the purpose of this illustration. It is treason:— 1. to kill the King, Queen or Prince; 2. to take away His crown or royal position; 3. to deprive him of territory; 4. to molest the Queen or Queen consort; 5. to assist an enemy.

You may also be guilty of treason or of one of the allied offences in any one of the following ways:— 1. if you suggest, advise or procure a treasonable act; 2. if you give general support to traitors; 3. if you give general assistance in the execution of the crime; 4. if you assist the concealment of the crime or the escape of the criminal; 5. if you fail to report any known act of treason.

I would suggest that the reader after reading through the tract should ponder on this list of offences, as they give food for thought as to our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel is foremost described in the New Testament as the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. If we ask: Who is the King? the answer is, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is King of kings, and Lord of lords. On the Jewish passover day in or about A.D. 29, Jesus, God's King, was done to death as the result of a high-level conspiracy between the leaders of the Jews and by reason of the political expediency of the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate who was willing to placate them. Instead of receiving Jesus as their King, the Jews confessed, We have no king but Cæsar! Pilate provided Jesus with His only crown in this world, and crucified Him as the Nazarene King of the Jews. The last time this world saw its King, He was hanging upon a criminal's gibbet, although He was the One destined to rule the world in righteousness and peace. They murdered the Son of God. How solemn!

You may say to me: "This was all a very long time ago. Whatever has it to do with me in the twentieth century?" This: Because the world needs Jesus to-day, and He is waiting to come back. One day He will come back and rule amongst men and set this world to right. What are you doing about it? Jesus is still pressing His claims upon men just as He was upon the Jewish leaders and upon Pilate. You need Him.

The world needs Him. A Just and Incorruptible Ruler! "He that ruleth among men must be just, ruling in the fear of God; and He shall be as the light of the morning, like the rising of the sun, a morning without clouds . . ." II Samuel xxiii 3-4. The question is not what you think of a purely historical issue, but how you re-act to a practical present issue, something which is an issue TO-DAY.

Jesus is alive to-day, He is claiming your allegiance. You like Pilate have Him on your hands. You cannot ignore Him. Either you must acknowledge Him King of kings and Lord of lords—or you *reject* Him! There is no middle ground. If you reject Him, you are crucifying Him just as truly *today* as the Jews and Romans did in A.D. 29. Are you going to repeat the dreadful cry of the Jews: "AWAY WITH THIS MAN: WE WILL NOT HAVE THIS MAN TO REIGN OVER US!" What *your* vote? Crucify, crucify!" IS THAT *YOUR* DECISION TO-DAY? Are you one of the guilty men?



Now take the second type of treason: depriving the king of his crown. Jesus claims your heart as His Throne. He wants to rule your life and bring true peace and happiness into it. Are you keeping Jesus out of that throne? Is self, lust, greed, or any other sin usurping the place which God created in your heart to be occupied by Himself and His Christ? If you do not worship the true God in your heart, there must be some god there, a false god, an idol. So your heart is an idol temple, and that idol will drag you to destruction unless you are rescued from his power. That is why YOU *need* to be *saved*.

Take the third class of treason: depriving the king of his realm or territory. Those who reject the claims of Christ are yielding to the influence the Devil has over the world, over men. To reject the claims of Jesus is to cause the world's misery through war, injustice, poverty, sickness and ignorance to continue. Jesus is coming one day to put all these things right. Do you want Him to come? To-day for instance? Would you like Him to come and put the world right *to-day*?

After Jesus had risen from the dead and ascended into heaven, the Apostle Peter told the Jews who had crucified Him that Jesus in His love would return *immediately* if only they would repent. We have the highest apostolic authority for saying that *if* the inhabitants of the earth would repent and ask Jesus to come back, He would come straight away! To become one of Christ's men is the most practical thing you can do to put the world right. To accept the claims of Christ for yourself is the first and most public-spirited act open to anyone with the public good at heart. Even while Jesus is away, the public benefit from every addition to the ranks of Christ's men is immense.

Would you please also consider this point. The Bible tells us that when Jesus comes again to set up His Kingdom in this world He will come in solemn judgment. God warned the city of Nineveh of judgment to come. But the city—from the king on his throne to the poorest—repented of their sins, *and the judgment was averted*. If men would repent Jesus would come in grace not in judgment. Thus, if you do not repent, you are in part guilty of causing the state of affairs in which God's judgments will be poured out in the earth at the Time of the End.

There are two other points to which I would refer. The Church of God is one with Christ. He is in Her, and She stands for Him. Of course there is much imperfection in all the churches which profess the Name of the Lord Jesus; but they do stand for Him. How do you stand in relation to them? How do you stand in relation to the Christians you know? Have you ever done evil to a believer in the Lord Jesus because you did not like his faith in Him? That is what Paul was like before his conversion. He was mad against the Christians. He persecuted the Church of God. He was struck down by a light from heaven, and heard Jesus say: "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou ME?" Touch my Church, Saul, and you touch Me. A man would say that if you molested his wife. The king would say it if you molested the Queen, and it would be treason. Have you been guilty of treasonably infringing the rights of the Lord Jesus Christ by molesting one of His own?

The fifth character of treasonable acts is giving assistance to an enemy. God has an Enemy, a great and wonderful super-natural being called the Devil and Satan, who deceiveth the whole habitable world, as the Bible says. He is not only God's Enemy, he is *your* Enemy. He cannot hood-wink God, but he can deceive you. The Bible tells us that he is the father of lies, and tempts men to all manner of sin and disobedience against God,

that he is the ruler of the dark and evil forces in the world, and leads men on to destruction. Be warned my friend. If there is *one thing* which this wonderful super-natural being will do in relation to you, it is to prevent your giving your heart and life to the Lord Jesus Christ. He will bend all his energies to deter you or mis-lead you, so that you do not become one of Christ's men. He will try to make you afraid. He will try to make you feel silly. His dupes will mock you, though it is in truth *they* who are foolish.

In the battle between good and evil, God supports the forces of good, the Devil supports the forces of evil. If, therefore, on any occasion or at any point you lend your support to the forces of evil, you are giving your support to the great Enemy of God. How dreadful to be deceived into committing treasonable opposition to the King of kings by helping His Enemy!—and remember—*your* Enemy!

No one who has tasted of the power of the Devil can feel otherwise than with deep sympathy for you in the problem which now faces your immortal soul. Anyone who knows the temptation to sin can only view your position with deep understanding. But the fateful decision is before you. It must be made.

Jesus said: "HE THAT IS NOT WITH ME IS AGAINST ME!" That is the challenge for you, the challenge of Jesus to you as you read.

In the Lord Jesus, the preacher of the Gospel is able to offer you a Lord and Saviour and Friend who will see you through to the end. He waits in compassion to bless those who come to Him in repentance and faith. In the Devil, you have a plausible and deceitful Enemy, implacably opposed to God and His Christ. Satan cares nothing for you save to use you as a tool against your Maker. It is not true that the Devil looks after His own. When you have served his ends, the Devil will just toss you on the scrap-heap, and mock at your mis-fortune. He has done it so often before.

God the Holy Spirit is yet striving with men to bring them to God. He will not always strive. How dreadful will be your position if He ceases to work in you! The Holy Spirit is at the present time at your side striving with your heart and conscience to bring you to acknowledge God's goodness and forbearance and long-suffering, pleading with you to surrender to the claims of Jesus' love, shown out in death on the Cross for your sake. Thus you can find in Our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, a Saviour, the Holy Trinity unitedly beseeching you to be reconciled to God your Maker. May you find that peace and joy in believing as you turn to the Lord Jesus in all His love and grace—perhaps in the following words:—

King of my life I crown Thee now! Thine shall the glory be!

Lest I forget Thy thorn-crowned Brow—Lead me to Calvary.

Lest I forget Gethsemane, Lest I forget Thine Agony;

Lest I forget Thy love to *me*—Lead me to Calvary.

On behalf of Christ the King of kings, may I urge you to make your immediate, full, unconditional surrender to HIM. He is worthy of it—**TO-DAY.**

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