

SAVIOR
SERVANT
FRIEND

SERMON FOR
GOOD FRIDAY



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SERMON

❏ “*Et tu, Brute?*” Or, in English, “And you, Brutus?” These famous words are attributed to Julius Caesar. More accurately, these words come from William Shakespeare’s play *Julius Caesar*. According to Shakespeare, this is what Caesar said when an angry mob of assassins descended upon him. To his dismay, Caesar saw a friend—Brutus—among the attackers. Amid a violent crowd of enemies, Caesar spotted a friend that had become a betrayer.

“Friend, do what you came to do” (Matthew 26:50). This is what Jesus said when he spotted a friend amid an angry mob descending upon him. Jesus gave no sense of shock or surprise. He did not say, “And you, Judas?” Nothing of the sort. Rather, Jesus permitted the betrayal to unfold—going as far as to call his betrayer his friend: “Friend, do what you came to do.” Though Judas counted Jesus as a foe, Jesus counted Judas as a friend.

The betrayal of his friend Judas was only the start of many tragic betrayals that were to come. The angry mob hauled an innocent and peaceful Jesus off to the high priest, Caiaphas, and the local Roman ruler, Pontius Pilate. These men proved to be no friends of truth or justice—they betrayed Jesus by listening to lies and protecting their own power. Peter, a longtime friend and disciples of Jesus, betrayed him as he thrice uttered a denial of friendship with Jesus saying, “I do not know him” (Luke 22:56).

Betrayed, betrayed, betrayed. Jesus was sent to the cross. Jesus, friend of sinners, went to the cross. Jesus—the blameless, spotless, sinless Son of God—went to the cross to be in