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Women's Activities Text "1" to #208.203.1777

Men's Activities Text "1" to #208.203.1822

"Peter and Judas"

1. **Judas Iscariot:** It is possible to be in close proximity to Jesus and not love Him.
 - a. Judas was close: he saw miracles, heard teaching, & had his feet washed.
 - i. And yet he betrayed Jesus with a kiss and died by suicide.
 - b. Judas' betrayal wasn't obvious to the other disciples.

Matthew 26:20-22 (NIV) "When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. 21 And while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." 22 They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely you don't mean me, Lord?"

2. What can we learn from Judas?

- a. 1) Know Jesus personally... don't just be near Him in proximity.
- b. 2) Don't betray Jesus for anything!
- c. 3) In your failure and sorrow don't be like Judas and let it lead you to death.

3. Don't be like Judas: Know Jesus personally

- a. **Judas's story starts when he is invited to follow Jesus.**

Mark 3:13-15 (ESV) "And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. 14 And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach 15 and have authority to cast out demons."

- b. **Appearances can be deceiving.**

Matthew 7:21-23 (ESV) "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"

- c. **Jesus wants a loving relationship with you.**

Revelation 2:2-5 (NIV) "I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. 4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. 5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first."

4. Don't be like Judas: Don't betray Jesus for anything

- a. **Some see Jesus as a means to an end (money, power, popularity, etc.).**

John 12:1-8 (ESV) "Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. 3 Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, 5 "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" 6 He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. 7 Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. 8 For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

- b. **Immediately following this confrontation, Judas seeks to betray Jesus.**

Matthew 26:14-16 (ESV) “Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. 16 And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.”

c. Are you practicing compromising?

5. Don't be like Judas: Don't Allow Worldly Sorrow to Lead You to Death

a. Where does this all lead?

Matthew 27:1-5 (ESV) “When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. 2 And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor. 3 Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, 4 saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” They said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself.” 5 And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself.”

b. What does the throwing of the 30 pieces of silver teach us? Sin lies! It will take you farther than you wanted to go, keep you longer than you wanted to stay, and make you pay more than you wanted to pay.

c. Overtime Podcast: Is Judas in hell because he committed suicide?

1. No, Judas died because he killed himself.
2. He is in Hell because he rejected Jesus.

d. Peter's vs. Judas's Grief

- i. Worldly grief - despair - death
 1. A disguised pride: “I'll give me what I deserve.”

2 Corinthians 7:10 (ESV) “For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.”

- ii. Godly grief - repentance - salvation

6. What are you going to do with your failures?

- a. Be like Peter: Run towards relationship!
- b. Be like Peter: Respond to Jesus's pursuit of you.
- c. Be like Peter: Allow God to restore you and use you for His glory!

Small Group Discussion Questions: Story: Matthew 26:1-16

Icebreaker: Tell a story of a time you did something foolish for money.

1. What are the failures that we don't think we can come back from?
2. What can we do when we fail Jesus?
3. Read Matthew 7:21-23. What do we learn about Jesus in this passage?
 - a. What does it look like to be in close proximity to Jesus in 2026 but not have a relationship with Jesus?
4. Read John 12:1-8. What do we learn about Judas here?
 - a. Where have you had a slow fade (small compromises) away from Jesus?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 7:10. What is the difference between worldly grief and godly grief?
6. Contrast Peter and Judas. They both failed Jesus. How do they differ?
7. What is one way that this life group can help you this week?

