



THURSDAY 03.11.10

Luke 22:47-53

In the days leading up to this moment, Jesus had visited the Temple to confront the religious leadership and had challenged their authority, questioned their motives and exposed their ties to the Roman authority. Under the cover of darkness, the same men came to arrest Jesus.

- When the disciples recognized what was about to happen, they responded in a way in which we might to protect someone we love. They prepared to fight for Jesus. Why does Jesus refuse their protection?
- “This is your hour,” Jesus says. With these words Jesus points to another hour that will soon come when darkness will be swallowed up and the light will come again. If you had to describe where you find yourself in your life right now, where would it be? The hour of darkness or the hour of light?



FRIDAY 03.12.10

II Corinthians 5:16-21

It is hard for us to imagine the exchange that would have taken place if Judas had lived to see Jesus after his resurrection. When we regard the actions of Judas from a human point of view, there are few actions more detestable than betraying a friend. Yet, Paul reminds us that “in Christ” we are a brand new creation. “The old has gone,” Paul writes, “the new has come.”

- Guilt sometimes traps us in our old identity and makes us question whether change is really possible. Do you believe that God has made you new? In what ways are you claiming this new identity of being made into a new creation?
- Reconciliation is about putting things back together. Where do you see that process at work in your life right now? How are you participating in helping others to be “reconciled” to God?



GROW • PRAY • STUDY

A RESOURCE FOR DISCIPLES SEEKING TO LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS & SERVE THE WORLD ...

Series: *24 Hours That Changed the World*

Sermon: *The Betrayal of Jesus*

Scripture: *Matthew 26:47-56*

Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon:



Introduction

The scene in the Garden of Gethsemane ends with the arrival of Jesus' betrayer. Under the cover of darkness, the authorities have come to arrest Jesus. It is in this moment that the downward spiral of the last 24 hours of Jesus' life begins. Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss, the soldiers move to arrest Jesus, and though all four gospel writers report that the disciples attempt to protect Jesus from this moment, Jesus rebukes their actions and peacefully surrenders to his captors. Jesus will continue this journey alone, ready to face what the next few hours will bring.

Judas' betrayal of Jesus is one of the most disturbing aspects of Jesus' arrest. Had Judas found himself disillusioned with Jesus or simply in need of 30 pieces of silver? None of the gospel writers provide insight into that question. What we do know is that Judas never recovered from his act of betrayal. During this week's reading, reflect on when you have also been tempted to turn your back on Jesus, and allow this prayer to guide you:

Holy and loving God, we confess that we often fall short of the great calling you have placed on our lives. Like Judas, we have also traded away your will for our own comfort or gain. Even as we give you thanks for this journey you have walked for each of us, forgive us, Lord, of those times when we, too, have abandoned you.



TUESDAY 03.09.10

John 12:1-8

The perfume that Mary used was often used to anoint a body at the time of burial. Jesus uses this common practice to foreshadow that the time of his death was drawing near. John's story of the anointing of Jesus contrasts the outpouring of devotion by Mary with the hesitation and greed that we hear in Judas' reaction. For Mary, Jesus represented the greatest treasure one could ever imagine, but even in this moment, Judas had been blinded by his greed.

- Some might consider Mary's gift to Jesus reckless when the economic value is fully understood, and yet, it also exposes the adoration that Mary carried in her heart for Jesus, as well as her sincere belief in him as the Messiah. Today, consider how your adoration of Christ and belief in him is made evident in your life.



MONDAY 03.08.10

Matthew 26:14-16

None of the disciples' actions during the last 24 hours of Jesus' life are worth commending, but the actions of Judas indicate that his heart had grown cold and turned away from the mission and message of Jesus. Judas responds to this growing divide by turning to the chief priests, and in doing so, asks the chilling question, "What will you give me if I hand him over to you?"

- The disappointment that Judas experienced led him into the hands of the chief priests. Where do you find yourself turning when you find yourself in a place of discouragement?
- Judas had everything — a relationship with God's son, the honor of serving as a disciple of Jesus — but he traded it away for something less. In what ways do you find yourself tempted to trade "everything" for something of less value?



WEDNESDAY 03.10.10

Matthew 27:1-10

Guilt is a powerful motivator in our lives, and yet, our faith teaches us that guilt does not always tell the whole story. The guilt that Judas experienced convinced him that his life was over, and as a consequence, Christian history was not afforded the chance to hear the rest of Judas' story.

- God's grace seeks to root out our guilt and lead us towards living a life where love is the primary motivation. How does love keep us grounded in the "whole story" of our relationship with God?
- Throughout his teaching, Jesus connects receiving forgiveness from God with sharing forgiveness with others. In what ways are you teaching others about grace by the forgiveness you share with them? Are there people in your life today who are waiting for you to release them from their guilt?
