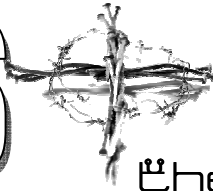


246



HE CHOSE THE NAILS Lesson 03— The Betrayal in the Coins

-Introduction

*Through the mocking of the crown, robe, staff, name calling, and spitting, Jesus shows us:

1. He knows what it's like to be made fun of
2. How to stand for what is right without wavering
3. How much He loves us by going through far more than what was "necessary"

I. The UNFAITHFULNESS of Jesus' Closest Friends

A. 12 men spent the majority of Jesus' ministry years daily by His side

*He invested His life in men who were nobodies making them somebodies

B. At the Lord's Supper, Jesus predicted all of His disciples would RUN AWAY (**Matthew 26:31**)

1. Peter and the other disciples said they would NEVER deny Jesus and they would be willing to die with Him (**Matthew 26:33-35**)
2. When Jesus was arrested, EVERY disciple ran away (**Matthew 26:56**)
*1 disciple ran away naked when they grabbed him by his clothes (**Mark 14:51-52**)
3. Peter later would reject knowing Jesus 3 times (**Matthew 26:69-75**)

C. Even worse, JUDAS, turned in Jesus for 30 pieces of silver (**Luke 22:1-6**)

1. Jesus also had predicted this at the Lord's Supper (**John 13:31-30**)
2. Judas led the soldiers to Jesus, where he KISSED Jesus to identify Him (**Matthew 26:47-50**)

II. The FAITHFULNESS of Jesus

A. Jesus knew BEFORE they deserted Him, but He chose them to be His followers anyway

B. After all Judas had done, Jesus still called him "FRIEND" (**Matthew 26:50**)

III. The Application

A. Jesus knows what it is like to be HURT by those CLOSEST to us

1. His heart was invested into people who later rejected Him
2. He went through all of this to show us that He understands

B. Jesus gave the example of LOVING others no matter what they have done

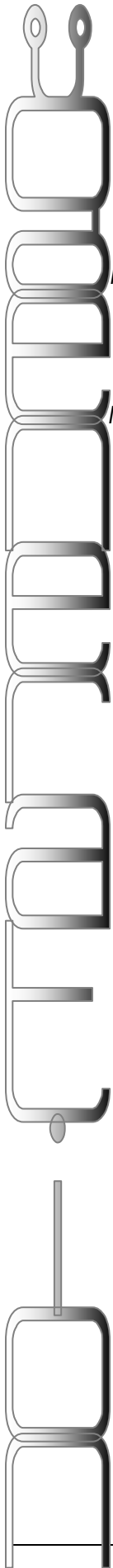
1. He showed us how to look for the best in people (mainly because we all fail)
2. He still gave everything for those who rejected Him, and those would later reject Him

C. Sometimes we can be like the disciples who GAVE UP when the times were tough

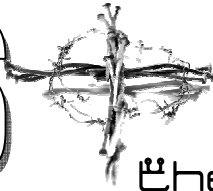
1. Do we love people through the hard times when they need us most?
2. Do we remain faithful to Christ when we need Him most?

Take it Home:

Read John 15:12-17, Proverbs 17:17 & 1 John 3:16-20



246



HE CHOSE THE NAILS

Lesson 03—

The Betrayal in the Coins

Small Group Discussion

It would be hard to find someone worse than Judas. The Bible says, "Judas ... was a thief. He was the one who kept the money box, and he often stole from it" (John 12:6). The man was a crook. Somehow he was able to live in the presence of God and experience the miracles of Christ and remain unchanged. In the end he decided he'd rather have money than a friend, so he sold Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. I'm sorry, but every human life is worth more than thirty pieces of silver. Judas was a scoundrel, a cheat, and a bum. How could anyone see him any other way? I don't know, but Jesus did. Only inches from the face of his betrayer, Jesus looked at him and said, "Friend, do what you came to do" (Matt. 26:50). What Jesus saw in Judas as worthy of being called a friend, I can't imagine. But I do know that Jesus doesn't lie, and in that moment he saw something good in a very bad man.¹

Discuss: Hand out Roman coins. "When Judas was tempted with turning in his friend for money, he chose money over his friendship with Jesus. The other disciples even ran away, leaving Jesus alone."

Ask Yourself: Has you ever had a friend who gave up on you for another friend? Popularity? Etc.? How did that feel?

Talk About It: How does it feel to know that Jesus has gone through the same emotional hurt that I have gone through?

Discuss: Jesus gave us a great example of how we are to forgive our friends.

Ask Yourself: Is there someone who has hurt me in the past who I need to forgive? Is there someone I need to give a second chance to or mend relationships with?

Discuss: Maybe you have actually found yourself to be like the disciples rejecting your friends. Maybe you are here and you have falling away from Christ because of circumstances in your life.

Ask Yourself: Is there a friend I need to ask forgiveness for because I have deserted them when they needed me? What about Christ? Is there any way I have done exactly what the disciples did and I need to ask Him for forgiveness?

Take it Home:

Read John 15:12-17, Proverbs 17:17 & 1 John 3:16-20

¹Lucado, M. (2001, c1998). *Just like Jesus* (electronic ed.) (134). Nashville: Word Publishing.