

Imperfect #6
A Traitor Among Us

Word

Scripture Reference

Luke 22:1-38

Discussion Questions

1. The essence of betrayal is this: that I am willing to hurt you to get something for myself. Have you ever been betrayed? How did you react to that betrayal?
2. Judas's betrayal of Jesus is one of the worst betrayals in history. He was with Jesus for three years, heard His teachings and saw miracles that authenticated Jesus' messages, and yet sold out Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Do you ever wonder what caused him to do it? How did Jesus respond to Judas' betrayal? Read Luke 22:1-38. While the people were anticipating the Passover—a feast commemorating the night the Israelites were freed from Egypt when God “passed over” homes marked by the blood of the lamb—what were the chief priest and teachers of the law plotting to do to Jesus (v. 1-2)? Satan definitely had a part in the betrayal of Jesus, but Judas was also responsible for his own actions. Discuss how Judas betrayed Jesus (v. 4-6). What did he get from betraying Jesus? What does this passage teach us about human flaws? What are the causes why Christians walk away from their faith?
3. Our passage shows us three ways Jesus responded to those who betrayed Him. First, He desired fellowship with traitors (v. 7-23). Why did Jesus eagerly want to share the Passover meal with His disciples (v. 15-16)? If you knew that your time on earth was about to end, who would you want to have your last meal with? Could it possibly be someone who had betrayed your trust? Why or why not?
4. On this occasion, Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper (v. 17-23). Discuss what the Lord's Supper is about. Why is it so important to commemorate it? The Lord's Supper was followed by Jesus' revelation that there is a traitor among the disciples. Did anyone among the disciples suspect who the traitor could be? Why do you think they could not have suspected that it was Judas? Would God have forgiven Judas if Judas acknowledged his sin?
5. Second, Jesus promised those who betrayed him great things to come (v. 24-30). Why did argument started among the disciples (v. 24)? What principle did Jesus give in response to the disciple's argument (v. 25-27)? Judas should have

understood what Jesus meant about the greater things to come, but he didn't. How is the Lord's system of greatness different from the world's system? Why is it so appealing to seek greatness and credit? How did Jesus exemplify greatness? What opportunities has the Lord already given you to serve Him and others?

6. Lastly, Jesus gave traitors a second chance (v. 31-34). It was not only Judas who betrayed Jesus; Simon Peter did as well. Discuss how it happened. Whose betrayal do you think is worse, Judas's or Peter's? Why? What set them apart from each other? How did Peter turn out? Share with the group how you have messed up in your work, studies or in relationships, but turned your life around after being given a second chance.
7. Jesus reminded the disciples that he had always taken care of them (v. 35-38). How did Jesus warn them of the tough times ahead? It is a question of trust whether we trust Him or the world. Do you trust Him enough not to betray Him?

Walk

Towards the end of his poem *Thirty Pieces of Silver*, William Blane writes,

*It may not be for silver: it may not be for gold;
But still by tens of thousands is this precious Saviour sold.
Sold for a godless friendship, sold for a selfish aim,
Sold for a fleeting trifle, sold for an empty name!
Sold in the mart of science! Sold in the seat of power!
Sold at the Shrine of Fortune! Sold in Pleasure's bower!
Sold, where the awful bargain none but God's eye can see:
Ponder, my soul, the question, 'Shall He be sold by thee?'
O Shall Jesus be sold by thee?*

Judas sold Jesus out for mere 30 pieces of silver. Simon Peter denied Jesus three times. Every one of the disciples left Jesus when He died. They were not, however, the only ones guilty of betraying Jesus. We are traitors as well when in our hearts we say we trust Jesus, but we hurt Him to advance ourselves. It is like saying, “I am willing to hurt Jesus to get something for myself.” We sell out Jesus and we do it everyday. How are you guilty of betraying Jesus? What do you plan to do about it?

You are so blessed that He gives second chances. His unconditional love is evident when He forgives traitors, as He did to Peter. But unlike Judas, how did Peter deal with his guilt? How would you deal with your guilt of betraying Jesus? Would you turn your eyes to Jesus?

Worship & Prayer

Father, thank You for making me realize the many ways I betray You everyday. I don't want to be that kind of believer. I want to be someone who trusts You with my whole heart. Thank You for the gift of second chances found only in Christ. Help me make the most out of those chances and help others to turn back to You. In Christ's name. Amen.