

# Easter (Part 2) – 4/10/22

Pastor Rick: "The Cost of Bargaining"

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Ever try to bargain with God?

We all try to get God in on our thing. There's something in us that wants to leverage God and His power for our ends.

"If you will . . . I will . . ." OR "Since God didn't \_\_\_\_\_, forget it!"

When there was something in it for Judas to follow Jesus, he followed. When it became apparent that "it" was not going to happen, he bailed.

Judas' story is relevant to us because there is something in all of us that wants to leverage God and His power for our ends.

*Matthew 19:27*

In their context they wanted someone to throw off Roman rule and return Israel to the days of David and Solomon, the golden age of Israel.

Judas began to lose patience, and finally something happened that was the final straw.

Woman broke bottle of perfume over Jesus (*Matthew 26:6–13*)

*"When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial."*

*Matthew 26:14-16*

*"What are you willing to... give me..."*

*"God is not a distant God, a God to be feared and avoided, a God of revenge, but a God who is moved by our pains and participates in the fullness of the human struggle." Henri Nouwen*

*John 13:27–30*

*Matthew 27:3–5*

What was of extraordinary value, in one minute, had no value the next. What was worth trading Jesus in for one minute, was an embarrassment the next.

When we barter rather than surrender, we are responsible for the outcome of the journey.

God won't get in the way of you having your way. He won't rob you of your responsibility for your decision.

Bartering is way easier than surrendering. Resisting and arguing with God is way easier than saying, "Have your way."

When we surrender, God takes responsibility for the outcome of the journey.

Now you might say, "Yeah, but it's so risky." To which I would say, Whatever you have replaced God with in your life is far riskier. And you are responsible for the outcome.

When we surrender, God takes responsibility for the outcome of the journey! Have you surrendered?

For what or whom are you tempted to trade your relationship with Christ? What is one thing you can do this week to surrender that part of your life to God?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

There's something in each of us that wants to leverage God and his power for our own purposes. We try to bargain with him through prayer, church attendance, giving, or short-term obedience, etc... We promise to do what we think he wants us to do, if he will do what we want. In the Easter story, Judas was like that. He tried to get Jesus to do what he wanted, without regard for Jesus' ministry and mission. That may seem ridiculous, but there's a little Judas in all of us.

1. What is something that was important to you in the past but no longer seems important? What change in your life caused a shift in your priorities?
2. What are some reasons people try to bargain with God? How does that bargaining affect their view of him?
3. During the message, Rick said, "*There's a little bit of Judas in all of us,*" meaning that we're all tempted to try to manipulate God for the benefit of our own agendas. Do you agree? Why or why not?
4. Talk about a time when you became impatient with God. How did you respond to that impatience? How did God respond?
5. Read Matthew 26:6–16. Do you relate to the disciples' reaction to the woman's behavior toward Jesus? Why or why not?
6. For what or whom are you tempted to trade your relationship with Christ? What is one thing you can do this week to surrender that part of your life to God? How can this group hold you accountable?