

DAY 4: THE BETRAYAL

Imagine sharing a meal with your closest friends. You've laughed, cried, and walked through life together. Then, without warning, one of them betrays you in the worst way possible. This is exactly what happened in the hours leading up to Jesus' arrest and eventual death.

Jesus knew His disciples intimately, He walked with each of them and knew their hearts. He saw the betrayal coming. Judas, one of His trusted disciples, had already made an agreement with the religious leaders to hand Jesus over. This was not a misunderstanding or a mistake, it was a conscious choice, fueled by greed and a heart turned away from God.

MATTHEW 26:14-16, 20-25

“Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests and asked, ‘What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him over to you?’ So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand Him over...

When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, He said, ‘Truly I tell you, one of you will betray Me.’ They were very sad and began to say to Him one after the other, ‘Surely you don’t mean me, Lord?’ Jesus replied, ‘The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with Me will betray Me.’”

Though Judas had already made his choice, Jesus was not surprised. He didn't confront him angrily or publicly shame him. Instead, He spoke with sorrow, fully aware of the cost that betrayal carries; not just for Him, but for all involved.

Betrayal is one of life's most painful experiences. We've all faced it, whether from a friend, a family member, or someone that we least expect. Judas' actions remind us how easy it is for hearts to drift from God's purposes and for loyalty to falter.

Yet Jesus' response sets the ultimate example. Even knowing Judas would betray Him, He welcomed him to the table and washed his feet. He extended grace instead of retaliation. He continued to serve with love, trusting that His mission was far greater than the pain inflicted by betrayal.

In our own lives, betrayal can tempt us to isolate ourselves, hold grudges, or seek revenge. But Jesus calls us to a different response: to extend grace, even in the hardest circumstances, and to let love guide our actions rather than hurt.

REFLECT

Is there someone in your life who has broken your trust? Maybe it's a friend, a family member, or even a time when you've betrayed God's trust. Take time today to pray and ask God for help to forgive, release bitterness, and choose restoration. You may not be able to erase what you've done, but you can allow God to redeem the past and heal your heart.

PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for showing me the power of grace, even in the midst of betrayal. Help me to forgive those who have hurt me, just as You forgave Judas. Heal my heart and teach me to love others, even when it's difficult. Amen.