

LIFEGROUPS

RECONCILIATION — Comparing Peter & Judas

JUDAS

Read John 12:1-8

1. What do you think about Judas' objection? Does he have a point?
2. What would be your reaction to Jesus if you were Judas?

Read Matthew 26:14-15

3. What do you think about Judas "Let's make a deal" approach?
4. What does this tell us about Judas' attitude?

Read Matthew 27:1-5.

5. Why would Judas say that he had "betrayed innocent blood?"
6. Why would he give the money back? Wasn't the money the goal?
7. What was the nature of his sin? (Pride, arrogance, greed, dishonesty.)

PETER

Read Matthew 26:30-35

8. What does Peter mean when he says "even if all fall away on account of you" I won't? How would you put this in today's language?
9. Why would Peter say he was more loyal than the rest?

Read John 18:1-11

10. Imagine you saw this mob at night in a park. How would you feel?
11. Did Peter keep his word that he was willing to die?
12. What was the difference between Peter's thinking & Jesus'?

Let's skip down in this chapter and read on. Read John 18:15-17, 25-26

13. Why do you think Peter denies knowing Jesus?

14. Has that ever happened to you? You speak boldly about faith and courage to others but when you're faced with difficulties, you don't have the same sort of faith and courage?

COMPARISON

15. How would you compare the betrayal of Judas with that of Peter? Is fear a lesser sin than pride and greed?
16. If Judas had not killed himself, do you think he would have repented and returned as a disciple?
17. Why didn't Judas feel like he could ask Jesus for forgiveness, but Peter did?
18. What is your attitude today? Are you loyal, but weak? Or, are you proud and self-centered? Or something else?

LEADER'S NOTES

Let's try doing a bit of comparison between Peter & Judas, and in particular Jesus' interaction with them. Both of them betrayed Jesus, and both of them responded differently to Jesus as well.

"I know of no more poignant contrast between two human destinies than that of Peter and Judas. Both assumed leadership within the group of Jesus' disciples. Both saw and heard wondrous things. Both went through the same dithery cycle of hope, fear, and disillusionment. As the stakes increased, both denied their Master. There, the similarity breaks off.

Judas, remorseful but apparently unrepentant, accepted the logical consequences of his deed, took his own life, and went down as the greatest traitor in history. He died unwilling to receive what Jesus had come to offer him. Peter, humiliated but still open to Jesus' message of grace and forgiveness, went on to lead a revival in Jerusalem and did not stop until he had reached Rome."

-John Stott