

Day 4

Jesus Loves the Betrayer & Denier

Today's Focus: *Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.* (Matthew 3:8 NIV)

You made it through day three of this study, and I think it's safe to say you are officially immersed in the Scripture. If you are feeling a little tired of all the reading, writing, and reflecting being required of you, good! You are on the right track because what is going on is you are engaging with Scripture and that takes a careful, slower process than most things we do in our day-to-day.

We have invested our first week of study to around the time of Jesus' betrayal and crucifixion. These last few days we have focused much of our attention on Jesus and Judas. At this point, you may be seeing some similarities between you and Judas, which is why it's important to say **if you have the Holy Spirit living inside of you, Satan cannot enter you like he did Judas**. Please be sure to implant this truth in your mind so it could start to sprout more truth without getting entangled with the weeds of lies from the Enemy.

Read John 13:1-30 allowing your mind to reflect back on Judas and your ears perking up as you go meet Peter.

Judas and Peter were both Jesus' disciples and friends. They shared something else in common too: betrayal of Jesus. However, the two men do not share the same response to their betrayal. In fact, their responses were drastically different from each other. **One lead to life and the other to death**. Today and tomorrow you will witness the striking difference of repentance and remorse through the lives of Judas and Peter.

It is possible Judas at first believed Jesus was the Messiah. He saw the amazing miracles and witnessed his early popularity...he may have been excited to follow Him. However, as time went on, Judas must have become frustrated by the Lord's actions and words... Judas tasted power only to find he had loved his own life but lost it

to all eternity. Remorse is not the same as repentance. Repentance is a deliberate change in mind, spirit and life direction following the receiving of forgiveness. Remorse is wishing you had not acted a certain way, often because of consequences, yet refusing to ask and receive forgiveness. (BSF International, AdNotes. (2016). Biblica, Inc.)

Let's do some preparation before we enter this scene in John 13:31-38, ok? To properly prepare, think of someone who is dear to you, someone the Lord has used as a compass pointing to the Truth for you. In fact, for the sake of clarity during this activity, let's just refer to this individual as "your compass." These types of people come in different forms by way of a mentor or friend, spiritual mother or teacher. For me, it was my mom before she died. Today, it's a conglomeration of women but for the sake of this activity, I'll narrow it down to Jayne. Now it's your turn. Do you have your compass in mind? Once you do, find a place to get comfortable, quiet the noise, and prepare your mind for some reflection as you think about the following questions:

Please note: if you do not have a compass in your life, consider someone you dearly love whose absence would change the trajectory of your life.

What makes them so special to you (they can't be replaced because their touch on your life has been a personal gift from God)?

Think back on your history together, what are some of your most memorable moments?

Continuing to think back on your history together, think of a time(s) you laughed together and remember why you laughed. Retell the story in your mind. If you find yourself smiling at the memory, good!

What do you love about this person? What does she love about you?

What makes her different than all the rest of the people in your life?

What would her absence mean to you? How would you be affected by her absence in your life? What would be lost for you if her presence was no more?

As you hold these reflections in your mind, **open your Bible to John 13 and read verses 31-38** and do your best to picture this scene.

Pulling from your reflections with you personal compass, how do you think Peter felt toward Jesus? **Share your thoughts below.**

I can't help but wonder what Peter must have felt after hearing from Jesus he would deny him just as Jesus was facing his death. Can you imagine how you may feel if your personal compass told you that you would do the same? Scripture doesn't tell us what Peter or Jesus were thinking or feeling here, so we are left to wonder. However, what we do know is they were both real human beings, flesh and bone, and Peter's feelings were vocal as if to say, "No! I would die with you before I ever had to say goodbye to you." **Share your thoughts on Peter's response to Jesus, in verse 37, below.**

As your conclusion for today, record the scene between Peter and Jesus in your own words (John 13: 36-38).

Truth for Your Soul: *He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end.* (John 13:1b ESV)

Jesus loved Peter until the very end. He is doing the same for you on this very journey and until you make it safely home.