

Week of May 5 - Surely Not I? Small Group Lesson 2

Connect

Should we ever wish that our enemies would go to hell? Why or why not?
(Matthew 26:24b)

Verses - Matthew 26:17-25 (CSB)

17 On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

18 "Go into the city to a certain man," he said, "and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My time is near; I am celebrating the Passover at your place[a] with my disciples.'" 19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover. 20 When evening came, he was reclining at the table with the Twelve. 21 While they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

22 Deeply distressed, each one began to say to him, "Surely not I, Lord?"

23 He replied, "The one who dipped his hand with me in the bowl—he will betray me. 24 The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for him if he had not been born."

25 Judas, his betrayer, replied, "Surely not I, Rabbi?"

"You have said it," he told him.

Study

1. Each of the four gospels clearly reports that Judas Iscariot was one of the men chosen by Jesus to be a disciple and, also, that he was the disciple who betrayed Jesus. (*see: Matthew 10:4, Mark 3:19, Luke 6:16, and John 6:70-71*)

   (a) Did Jesus make a mistake by choosing Judas as one of his disciples?
   (b) Was Jesus surprised when Judas finally betrayed him?
   (c) Why did Jesus pick a disciple who would betray him? *(hint: John 17:12)*

2. After Jesus was arrested, ***all*** of his disciples abandoned him. Peter, their leader, three times denied that he even knew Jesus. (Matthew 26:30-35) How were the other disciples the same as Judas? How were they different?

3. When Jesus first told the disciples that one of them would betray him, they were all ***"deeply distressed."*** (v.22) Why?

4. Judas replied, "Surely not I, ***Rabbi***." All of the other disciples replied, "Surely not I, ***Lord***." Why do you think they all responded as they did? (vv 22, 25)

5. **APPLICATION** In the history of the church, other than Judas and the other apostles, have church leaders ever betrayed Jesus? If and when such betrayal occurs, how should we react?

   (Example questions: Should we be "deeply distressed"? Why? Is God surprised by this? Should we look to ourselves first and say "Surely not I, Lord?" Should we suppose that every betrayal of Christ will be forgiven?)

Magnify

Based on today's lesson,

- How have we betrayed Jesus recently?
- Have we repented and asked for His forgiveness?
- In discovering the sins of others, do we remember that God is in control of everything, including punishment of sin, and that vengeance belongs to Him, and not to us?

Take prayer requests and pray for each other.