

100 days with Jesus

Group Study No: 19

Matthew 26:47-50 & 69-75

Introduction

What a pair! One of them, the worst traitor in history; the other the most famous friendship denier of all time. These were the two people closest to Jesus in his darkest hour. What was going on?

There are four places in the New Testament where we get a complete list of the twelve disciples. In each one, Peter is at the top of the list, and Judas is at the bottom. Peter was the leader and Judas the betrayer.

Discussion

1. Most Bible characters, even Peter, had bad days. If you could be anyone in the Bible for one day, who would it be and why?

2. Read Matthew 26:47-50

3. There are lots of theories as to why Judas betrayed Jesus. Which do you think is the most likely?

- He was having a bad day.
- He was a political terrorist (hence the name Iscariot), dedicated to overthrowing Rome.
- He was a permanent outsider not very well accepted by the rest of the disciple gang.
- He had a strong liking for money.
- He betrayed Jesus to provoke him to action.
- He was taken over by Satan.

4. Do you think Jesus was angry with Judas? If not angry, which word would you use?

5. Read Matthew 26:69-75

6. Are you surprised by Peter's denial, or can you understand why he did it?

7. Can you think of examples of when you have found it difficult to stand up for Jesus?

8. How did Peter recover from denying Jesus to become the leader of the early Church?

9. If you've made mistakes in your Christian life, do you think Jesus can restore you?

Prayer

Father,
Forgive me for I have sinned.
I am no longer worthy to be called your son.
I have been a Judas,
I have been a Peter,
Father, forgive me.
Amen.