

Introduction to Mark 14:10-21

Sunday, February 5, 2017
Pastor Don Denyes

When we talk about “faith in Jesus” as being the threshold for becoming a Christian, what we’re talking about involves not only trusting the promises of God (that Christ died for our sins and that by trusting Him our sins can be forgiven), but also allegiance to Jesus as King (committing ourselves to obedience and service to Him). It is not the obedience or the service that saves us, but the faith-commitment to whole-hearted obedience and service.

Often times, this theme of allegiance to God in Christ is under the surface. You have to do a little digging to put the pieces of a biblical text together to understand how the relationship works in the story. But in the story of the death of Christ, it is quite explicit. There was literally a man who betrayed Jesus—who decided it was better to ally himself with greed, or the Jewish leaders, or Rome, or whomever, than to ally himself with Jesus. As Pastor Don put so clearly, while we may not be able to share in Judas’ specific act of treason against the King, we can play the part of the traitor nonetheless. This is why we must pay close attention to how the story unfolds in Mark 14:10-21...

Context

It is the time of year to celebrate the Passover (Mark 14:12, 16). This was the most sacred feast for the Jews as it recalled God’s paramount act of salvation in their history: The Exodus (see Exodus 12 for the original story). This was a time when people from all over the world who worshiped the God of Israel would have descended on Jerusalem to commemorate God’s salvation. This Passover would be different, though. A few days prior to this, Judas, one of Jesus’ disciples, had given his whereabouts to the Jewish leaders to aid them in their plot to kill Him. There would be a new sacrifice this year...

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Mark 14:10-21

“The Betrayer and the Savior”

- Judas
 - Decent at first
 - Fooled everyone
 - Mastered by sin

- Jesus
 - Troubled
 - Loving
 - Governed by God

Discuss

- 1) Think of an instance of treason or betrayal. It could be from your own personal experience or a story you've heard about someone else. What causes a person to betray another? Why would someone choose to be a traitor?
- 2) To betray God is to be mastered by sin. What is it about sin that would make someone want to be mastered by it? Why is sin so enticing? What are the "pleasures of sin" (Heb. 11:25)?
- 3) Famous British theologian John Owen once wrote, "be killing sin or it will be killing you." How is it that we go about "killing sin"?
- 4) When you think about the fact that Jesus willingly and knowingly endured betrayal by not only one of His closest disciples (Judas), but by the people who should have known Him (the Jews), and the people He had created (everybody), what does that say about Him?
- 5) What would it look like for you to pledge your allegiance to Jesus each day? Similarly, how is it that we are "governed by the word of God?"