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"Jesus knew Judas' heart and still washed his feet."

[Unknown]

ENGAGE & CONNECT

Share about a time in your life when you felt betrayed by a decision someone close to you made. How did that make you feel and/or impact you?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

*"How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings."*

[Psalm 36:7]

BIG IDEA

If our focus is not on Christ, we will falter and misstep. If our perspective is framed by Him, we will prevail in love!

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION

[Matthew 26:47-56](#)

1. What does Jesus' response, "Friend, why have you come?", tell us about His attitude toward Judas, His betrayer?
2. How does Jesus contrast with Peter, particularly in how each reacts to the arrest?
3. What does Jesus mean when He says He could call on "twelve legions of angels"? Why do you think He doesn't do that?
4. What is dangerous about relying on emotion or instinct alone (like Peter did), especially in spiritually charged moments?
5. There is a contrast between "watching and praying" with "reacting." How is God inviting you to become more watchful and less reactive?
6. How does Jesus' healing of Malchus shape our understanding of how to respond to hostility or injustice?
7. In the sermon we heard, *"God does not need us to defend Him but rather, trust Him and represent Him."* How does this statement challenge or encourage you? Let's be honest with one another!

8. Why is “love” the true measure of Christian maturity, especially in moments of conflict?
9. What is controlling your heart in this season—fear, anger, ambition, or the peace of Christ?
10. What would it look like in your life to “put away the sword” and trust Jesus' way instead of your own?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE

Ephesians 6:17-18 tells us the kind of weapon we need to fight with: “*Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.*”

As we fight with truth and love, we must remember that today's reactions reflect yesterday's choices. *As you consider your next step, how could you invite God's grace to begin healing, start afresh, and seed a better tomorrow?*

PRAYER FOCUS

Red Letter REMEMBRANCE

FORGIVING → We extend grace and seek the Holy Spirit's leading to help us forgive those who have wronged us as God has forgiven our wrongs.

- What opportunities have you had recently to forgive someone who has wronged you?
- How has extending forgiveness impacted you and that person?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Matthew Ch. 26 Commentary](#) & [Why Did Judas Betray Jesus?](#)
 - Use these for background and encouragement before your group gathers.
- [Foundational Ways Jesus Loved His Enemies](#)
 - This would be a good resource to use after your group gathers.
- View of all our Easter services and invite resources [HERE](#) (Good Friday, Family Experiences, and Easter).