First Baptist Friendswood Students

Daily Discipleship — November 29-December 4

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH

Jesus endured betrayal for our salvation.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus's teachings about eating His flesh and drinking His blood weren't literal, so they were difficult to understand. Many turned away from Jesus because of these words, but it is in them that we find eternal life made known to us in Jesus's death and resurrection.

BREAD AND BETRAYAL — MARK 14

JESUS ENDURED BETRAYAL — MARK 14:17-21

17 And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. 18 And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." 19 They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?" 20 He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. 21 For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

JESUS KNEW THE COST — MARK 14:22-31

22 And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." 23 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. 24 And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. 25 Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." 26 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. 27 And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' 28 But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." 29 Peter said to him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not." 30 And Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." 31 But he said emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same.

THEOLOGY CONNECTION — GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

All true believers endure to the end. Those God has accepted because of Jesus and sanctified by His Spirit will never fall away from the state of grace but will persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, grieving the Spirit, impairing their graces and comforts, and bringing shame on the cause of Christ and temporary judgments on themselves, yet they will be kept by the power of God through faith for salvation.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

JESUS ENDURED BETRAYAL — MARK 14:17-21

• How could Jesus casually bring up someone betraying Him?

• How did the disciples respond to what Jesus shared?

• Read John 13:1-5. If Jesus knew He would be betrayed by Judas, why did He still let Judas be so close to Him and do ministry with Him?

JESUS KNEW THE COST — MARK 14:22-31

• What did Jesus mean by saying we're supposed to eat His body and drink His blood?

• Why was Jesus committed to sacrificing Himself?

• How can the way we live deny that we know Jesus? What can we do when we fall?

Who do you have in place to hold you accountable so that you are guarded from falling away or denying Jesus?

LIFE CONNECTION

Let's talk about trust. Can you really be trusted? If you made a list of the most important qualities you want in a friend, trust is probably on your list. Finding friends who are trustworthy is crucial in a culture where betrayal can happen on social media in an instant, but we must be trustworthy too—especially if we claim to love Jesus. If you've ever had a friend or family member betray your trust, you know how much it hurts. The sting of betrayal lasts a long time and isn't repaired easily—sometimes, not at all. How you handle betrayal says a lot about who you are and what you believe. If you run to the nearest person who will listen to gossip and complain, then you're reacting more like the world. Jesus showed us a better way. The amazing truth is that God will never betray you; He is perfectly trustworthy. We learn from Him what trust looks like! Though we may have great friends, Jesus is our greatest Friend. The more you depend on Him, the more you realize He is the only One capable of never letting you down.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH — JOHN 14:1-11

In school, it feels like everything has a barrier to entry. Want to be in the Honors Society? You need the GPA. Want to play varsity? You need the skill. Want to sit at "that" table? You need the right clothes, the right personality, or the right last name. These groups are exclusive because they are designed to keep people out based on qualifications. If you don't check the boxes, you don't get in.

Christianity is also exclusive but for a completely different reason. It's not exclusive because of who gets in—it's exclusive because of how we get in. In John 14, the disciples were spiraling. Jesus was talking about leaving, and they were confused and anxious. Thomas, being the honest one in the group, basically said, "Lord, we have no idea where you're going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus's response changed everything: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Here is the shift: Most exclusive clubs invite a select few but offer many ways to fail. Jesus invites everyone (John 7:37) but offers only one way to succeed. He is the Way, the path itself. He is the Truth, the ultimate reality. And He is the Life, the source of meaningful, full life we are all searching for.

When Philip asked Jesus to "show us the Father," Jesus said: "I am in the Father and the Father is in me." By using the phrase "I Am," Jesus used the ancient, holy name of God (Yahweh) that was revealed to Moses. He was telling the disciples—and us—that He isn't just a good teacher or a life coach. He is God in the flesh. He has the authority to promise us a place in heaven because it's His throne room. You don't have to be wealthy, good enough, or from the right family to belong to God. The invitation is open to all, but the entrance is singular. We don't get to the Father by being a better version of ourselves; we get to Him by trusting the One who is the Way.

• How does it feel to know God's requirement isn't based on your performance, GPA, or popularity?

• Jesus says He is the Way, not just a way. What is the difference, and why is it so important?

PRAY

Jesus, You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Thank You for making a pathway to eternal life with You. Help me walk worthy of Your gift of salvation.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1ST — JOHN 14:15-26

Jesus was preparing His disciples for His departure, but He promised they wouldn't be alone. He was sending help. Why? Because He loved them. And those who love Him show it by keeping His commands. We don't obey Jesus to get His love; we already have it. We obey Jesus to show Him that we love Him in return.

You might want to be obedient, but you ask, "How will I know if I'm being obedient or disobedient?" Two things help you obey: (1) Knowing God's Word. If you know it, you'll know when you stray from it. (2) Seeking His help—the Helper, actually! Jesus promised that when He left the disciples, He would send the Holy Spirit as a Counselor. He will teach and remind His followers of His commands.

The Holy Spirit fills a lot of roles: Counselor, Helper, Comforter, Advocate, Spirit of Truth, Spirit of God, and more. The Greek word here is paraclete, which means to come alongside. Jesus was sending the disciples (and us) someone to walk alongside them, just as He had, to continue to teach them and remind them of what Jesus had already taught them. He does this for us too. If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit doesn't just walk alongside you, but He lives in you and works daily to teach and remind you of Jesus's commands.

If you don't recognize the Spirit's work in your life, you may want to take a step back and ask yourself some honest questions: Have I truly made Jesus the Lord of my life? Have I surrendered to His will for me? Am I listening? Am I ignoring the teaching and leading of the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit's job is to come alongside us in our sanctification—a lifelong process where we grow more and more like Jesus. He teaches us and reminds us of the commands we've been given. In return, we listen and follow the commands. Why? Because obedience is the evidence of a faith-filled love for Jesus. If we love Him, we obey Him.

• When have you sensed the Holy Spirit working in your life?

• How can your obedience be evidence of your love for Jesus?

PRAY

Jesus, thank You for sending me the Holy Spirit, who works in my life, daily teaching me to be more like You. Help me grow and learn from Him always.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND — JOHN 15:9-17

In our world, most "love" is conditional—based on how you look, how you perform, or what you can do for someone else. But in John 15:9-17, Jesus described a kind of love that is completely different. It doesn't start with you; it starts with the Father, flows through Jesus, and ends up in your heart.

Jesus started by saying, "Abide in my love." To remain means to make your home there, to stay, to abide. Imagine your phone—it only works if it's charged. If left unplugged, it eventually dies. Staying connected to Jesus through prayer, His Word, and worship is how we stay "charged" with His love. We don't have to manufacture kindness or patience on our own; we just have to stay plugged into the Source.

This is one of the most mind-blowing shifts in the Bible. Jesus told His disciples—and us—that He no longer called them servants, but friends. Servants just do what they're told without knowing the "why." A friend is brought into the inner circle. Jesus has shared His heart, His mission, and His life with you. You are a personal friend of the Creator of the universe.

Jesus gives a specific instruction: "Love one another as I have loved you." How did He love us? Sacrificially. He laid down His life. As Jesus's friend, you might not die on a cross, but it might mean laying down your pride to apologize first, laying down your time to help a struggling friend, or laying down your reputation to stand up for someone being bullied.

• How can you remain in Jesus this week? What can you do to stay "plugged in" to the Source?

• What is one thing you can lay down this week (like your phone, your time, or your ego) to show someone the love of Christ?

PRAY

Jesus, help me to remain in You, to stay plugged in to You. I want to love others in a way that brings You glory and honor—in the way that You love me.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3RD — MARK 14:32-42

We often see Jesus as the calm, collected hero who has every answer. But in today's passage, we see a side of Him that is raw, overwhelmed, and deeply relatable. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus told His friends that He was "very sorrowful, even to death." Jesus didn't just say a polite, one-sentence prayer and move on. He fell to the ground and begged God for another way. Mark wrote that He went back three separate times to ask God for another way. He used the word Abba—an intimate, childlike term for "Daddy"—while asking for the "cup" of suffering to be taken away. Don't miss this: Jesus begged for another way.

If you've ever prayed the same prayer over and over, crying until you ran out of words, Jesus has been there. He understands the desperation of wanting a different outcome. God can handle your honesty. You don't have to "clean up" your prayers or pretend you're okay with a hard situation. Repetition isn't a lack of faith. Jesus asked three times. You can keep knocking on heaven's door when your heart is heavy.

The most powerful part of Jesus's prayer is the pivot: "Yet not what I will, but what you will." Even in His agony, Jesus trusted that the Father's plan was bigger than His temporary pain. God's will was for the Son to suffer, and Jesus surrendered obediently to His will.

Following Jesus doesn't mean we always get what we ask for. It means we have a Savior who knows exactly how it feels to hurt, who advocates for us when we're desperate, and who gives us the strength to trust God's will—even when it differs from our own desires.

• When have you called out to God with a "very sorrowful" heart?

• How does today's passage bring you comfort in difficult moments?

PRAY

Jesus, You get it. You know the pain I've felt, but I choose to trust Your will. I choose to trust that Your plan is bigger than my temporary pain.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4TH — MARK 14:43-50

Life is full of "ride or die" friendships—until things actually get messy. We all like to think we'd be the one friend who stays when everyone else runs, but today's passage gives us a brutal reality check on loyalty. Jesus was in the garden, physically and emotionally exhausted, when Judas showed up with a literal mob. Imagine the scene: torches flickering, swords drawn, and the tension at a breaking point. Then comes the "signal." Judas uses a kiss—the ultimate sign of affection and deep friendship—to identify Jesus for arrest. It's the ultimate "fake friend" move. Judas wasn't just a bystander; he was an insider using his intimacy with Jesus as a weapon. In the panic, one of the disciples swings a sword, cutting off an ear. It's a gut-reaction move: fight. But Jesus shut it down immediately. He pointed out the irony: They had come after Him like He was a dangerous criminal, yet He sat teaching in the temple every day in plain sight.

Jesus wasn't surprised. He knew this wasn't an accident or a lapse in security; it was the fulfillment of Scripture. He stayed in total control, even as He surrendered His freedom. Then comes the most horrific moment in the passage: "And they all left him and fled." Just hours earlier, these guys promised they would die for Jesus. But when the swords came out and the "VIP" status of being a disciple turned into a "Most Wanted" status, they checked out. They chose safety over Savior.

We often judge the disciples, but we do the same thing. We're "with" Jesus when it's cool, when the worship music is loud, or when life is easy. But what happens when following Him makes us look "weird" or costs us a social connection? Jesus knew He would walk the road to the cross alone. He could have stopped it all, but He didn't because the cost was worth it to Him. Our eternal lives were worth it to Him.

• Why do you think it's easier to fight (like the disciple) than to trust (like Jesus)?

• The disciples ran because they were afraid. How has fear made you want to "flee" from your faith?

PRAY

Lord, forgive me when my loyalty to You is weak. Thank You for being more faithful to me than I could ever be to You.