

SICK OF EVIL • Week 3: What Are You Going to Do About It?

Daily Briefing • Day 2 of 5 • Not Even Judas

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20a

Sunday's service pointed to Jesus washing His disciples' feet before communion. Today we slow down on exactly who He washed, and what that means for who you are actually willing to serve. You can watch or listen to the sermon at 1mso.church or on the One Missoula app.

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You served me before I ever deserved it, and You still do. Show me the people I have decided are not worth serving. Give me the humility to serve them anyway, the way You served me. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

TODAY'S TEACHING

Would you serve someone who absolutely did not deserve it? Not someone who is simply unpleasant or difficult, but someone who is actively planning to hurt you at the precise moment you were serving them. This is exactly the way Jesus treated Judas Iscariot, His betrayer.

Here is where this fits in the bigger story. God's people kept turning away from Him, generation after generation. So God sent His own Son, Jesus, who lived a perfect life and then went to the Cross to pay for the sins of anyone who would trust Him. The night before that happened, Jesus gathered with the twelve men who had followed Him for three years for something we now know as the Last Supper. The scandalous detail of the scene is that one of those twelve, Judas, had already agreed to hand Jesus over to the people who wanted Him dead.

That night, Jesus and His disciples reclined around a low table to eat, the normal way people ate a formal meal in that culture. Their feet stretched out behind them, dusty and dirty from walking dirt roads in open sandals all day, roads shared with animals. Washing a guest's feet before a meal was a basic act of hospitality, but it was considered so lowly that it was reserved for the least important servant in the house. That night, there was no servant to do it. None of the twelve disciples volunteered. So Jesus got up, took off His outer robe, tied a towel around His waist, and the Creator of the universe knelt down and washed the feet of the men He had spent three years pouring His life into.

This alone would have been shocking. It becomes even more remarkable when you remember Judas was in that room, and Jesus knew exactly what Judas was about to do (John 13:11).

When He finished, He explained why. *"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you"* (John 13:14-15). Jesus did not just do this for the eleven who would go on to follow Him faithfully. He did it for Judas too. He served the one man in the room who least deserved it, while knowing exactly what that man was about to do.

This sets a remarkable standard for anyone who claims to follow Jesus. If that standard isn't uncomfortable enough, it really gets amped up when the New Testament reveals that Judas can represent any of us. Paul writes that *"God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"*, and that *"while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son"* (Romans 5:8, 10). Enemy is a hard word to accept being applied to yourself, but God also reveals that *"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23). All of us have tried, in one way or another, to run our own lives instead of submitting to God as King, Lawgiver, and Judge (Isaiah 33:22). That is what earns us the label "enemy".

Since Jesus served His enemies, and since all of us were His enemies before He reconciled us to Himself, His redeemed and restored enemies are expected to serve the way He served, even for those who don't deserve it. That is exactly what John says next.

READ & MEDITATE

John 13:4-5, 12-15

Jesus rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him... ¹²When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you."

Romans 5:8, 10

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us... ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

1 John 3:16-18

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Read John 13 and notice Jesus explains what He did before anyone asks. Then read Romans 5 and notice the word enemies, not just strangers. Then read 1 John 3 and notice the command is not to feel grateful. It is to actually pay God's charity forward in love in deed and in truth.

REFLECT

Reminder: honest introspection and Scripture-informed self-assessment is far more beneficial than self-delusion and wishful thinking.

Jesus did not wait to see if Judas would change first. He served him knowing exactly what was coming.

Is there someone in your life right now that you have quietly decided does not deserve your help, your time, or your patience? Who is it?

Jesus served the one man in the room who least deserved it, and He did it without being asked.

What does it tell you about God that He would serve even when prideful humans wouldn't? Do you find this trait admirable or does it make you see Jesus as a doormat?

Sometimes it can be difficult to worship God authentically and one of the most effective remedies is looking at His actions and attributes. Does seeing Jesus' character revealed by washing his betrayer's feet actually enable you to worship Him sincerely, or does it stay a fact you admire from a distance without it changing anything?

Jesus did not just model serving. He said, “you also ought to” do the same.

What would you say to someone who claims to follow Jesus but treats Jesus' words as a suggestion and refuses to serve the people around them?

The New Testament does not just call you flawed. It calls you an enemy whom God served anyway.

How do you honestly process the New Testament calling you a sinner and an enemy who God served anyway?

How does actually accepting that label, instead of resisting it, change your own willingness to serve people who don't deserve it either?

Fill in the blank from 1 John 3:18:

Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in _____ and in truth. (1 John 3:18)

*These fill-in-the-blank questions use the ESV text. Your Bible may use different words for the same idea.

Why do you think John contrasts deed and truth against word and talk specifically? Why doesn't he just say “feel more intense feelings and use more flowery speech”?

John ties your love directly to His. He laid down His life first. You are only ever asked to respond.

Are you serving because God has already served you, or are you serving to get something in return, such as praise, reciprocated service, or being a good religious person?

When you serve someone and it goes completely unappreciated or unacknowledged (which is extremely common in modern churches), does remembering your service is a *response* to what Jesus already did for you actually help you handle that disappointment?

None of this requires the church to identify the need or give you permission to meet it. It only requires a person who actually knows someone well enough to know they need it: bringing food when someone is sick, watching a friend's kids so they can afford to show up somewhere (like Life Group), a hospital visit, or a Saturday spent helping someone move or fix something around their house.

Is there a specific, real need in front of you right now, someone you actually know, that you have been aware of and have quietly closed your heart to?

What would it cost you specifically, this week, to actually meet that need? What kind of world would we create if we actually saw needs and then met them, even at great expense to ourselves, even when people don't deserve it?

PRAYER

Write your prayer or pray out loud. As we've read, God's ear is not dull. Talk to Him like He is listening and wants to hear from you.

MEMORY VERSE

Write or recite Matthew 28:19-20a from memory:
