

1) Witness Judas: Are you providing kisses without love? (26:47-50)

What public displays of affection do you give to Jesus?

How often have you publically expressed devotion to Jesus to mask your lack of genuine love?
When?

Do you have a private animosity toward Jesus because of things that have happened to you?
Why?

2) Witness Peter: Do you want a king without a cross? (26:51-56)

Do you get mad when someone is attacking Jesus or the bible? Have you ever sinned while attempting to defend your faith? Have you ever used threats, intimidation, or violence in an attempt to convince someone how much Jesus loves them?

How do these mistakes actually hinder people from hearing the gospel?

What are our greatest weapons in the war for the hearts and minds of those who don't love Jesus?

Who do you know who is an enemy of Jesus? Have you made them your enemy or your friend?

Have you ever tried to deliver someone you love from a painful situation that God had actually designed for their good? (children, parents, friends, etc.) Are you rescuing someone from the consequences of their sin? Are you willing to allow someone you love to go through hardship if it would accelerate their salvation or sanctification?

Read Matthew 16:24. Is God calling you to put down your sword and pick up your cross? What would that look like for you?

3) Witness Caiaphas: Have you declared guilt without a crime? (26:57-68)

Some skeptics genuinely want to examine the evidence for Jesus being the Son of God. Others have made up their minds that no evidence will provide enough evidence to believe. How did God overcome your doubts about Jesus prior to believing?

Caiaphas declared Jesus guilty even though he was completely innocent of all crimes. How does Caiaphas' verdict parallel God the Father's verdict of Jesus and his verdict on us? This is the doctrine of justification. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 5:18-19, Colossians 2:13-14.

God allowed Jesus to be declared guilty though he was innocent so he could declare us to be innocent though we are guilty. How does this truth fuel your worship and obedience to Christ?

4) Witness Judas: Do you feel regret without repentance? (27:1-10)

What are the differences between Judas' regret and Peter's repentance? (Matthew 26:75, Matthew 27:5)

Have you ever had thoughts of suicide? What role did feelings of guilt and hopelessness play in those thoughts?

Read 2 Corinthians 7:9-11. What does godly grief produce? What does worldly grief produce?

What is the evidence listed in v.11 of genuine repentance? Is your life characterized by godly grief that leads to life or worldly grief that leads to death?

Additional Scripture

- John 2:19
- 1 Peter 2:21-24
- Romans 6:23
- Isaiah 53:7
- John 13:27
- John 19:19-24
- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Romans 5:18-19
- Colossians 2:13-14

