

THE
BAD BOYS OF EASTER

PART 2: The Pretender

INTRODUCTION

There's something in us that wants to leverage God and his power for our end. We all try to get God in on our thing. We try to bargain with him through prayer, church attendance, giving, or short-term obedience. We promise to do what we think he wants us to do, if he will do what we want. In the Easter story, Judas was like that. He tried to get Jesus to do what he wanted, without regard for Jesus' ministry and mission. That may seem ridiculous, but there's a little Judas in all of us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is something that was important to you in the past that no longer seems important? What change in your life caused a shift in your priorities?
2. What are some reasons people try to bargain with God? How does that bargaining affect their view of God?
3. During the message, Andy said, *"There's a little bit of Judas in all of us,"* meaning that we're all tempted to try to manipulate God for the benefit of our own agendas. Do you agree? Why or why not?
4. Talk about a time when you became impatient with God. How did you respond to that impatience? How did God respond?
5. Read Matthew 26:6-16. Do you relate to the disciples' reaction to the woman's behavior toward Jesus? Why or why not?
6. For what or whom are you tempted to trade your relationship with Christ? What is one thing you can do this week to surrender that part of your life to God? How can this group hold you accountable?

MOVING FORWARD

At some point, all of us are tempted to trade our relationship with Christ for something or somebody. But like Judas, the moment you make that trade, the value of what you received begins to diminish. Eventually, you'll regret the outcome. You'll wish you could go back and undo that decision. When we put aside our agenda and surrender to God, he takes responsibility for the outcome of the journey.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial."

Matthew 26:11-12