

AMAZING LOVE 06: JESUS AND JUDAS

As ever, please use (or discard!) these ideas as is most suitable for your group. Don't feel you have to use everything.

Please read John 13:1-31

For discussion:

1. Have you ever felt betrayed? How did you react?
2. How did Jesus show love to Judas in John 13? Can you think of other ways Jesus had loved him during the three years when Judas was one of the inner circle of disciples?
3. Read John 6:64, 70-71: What had Jesus known about Judas from the beginning? How does this make Jesus' love for Judas all the more amazing? Consider how and why you need a Saviour this loving.
4. Read John 12:4-6 and notice how John prepares us for what happens in John 13:18-30. It seems that the betrayal of Jesus was the climax of an awful pattern in Judas' life that began much earlier. There was something in his life that he wasn't willing to lay at the feet of Christ and say, "*Lord, save me from this.*" Are there any areas of your life that you are holding back from the Lordship of Christ? What stops you bringing those areas to the light? Why not seek the help of your Lifegroup to deal with these things now?
5. What indications does John give us that in spite of the evil forces at work, Jesus is still in control (see John 13:3, 11, 19, 27, 31)? How does this encourage you in your present circumstances? Where, in your life at the moment, do you especially need to know that Jesus is in control, and that His love will triumph? You may like to spend a few moments praying for any particular needs that are shared among the group.
6. See John 13:27: By surrendering Himself to Judas' plans, Jesus refused to save Himself but instead saved us – see John 10:11, 18. How do you feel about that? What difference would it make to your daily life if you really believed and remembered that this is how much you are loved? Be specific – think of the difference it would have made in the latest situation you struggled with.
7. Notice the sequel to Judas' departure: v.31. We're reminded again that the suffering of Jesus was not a pathway to defeat but an entrance to victory. How does this encourage you?

In Conclusion:

- What has encouraged you most in this study? What has challenged you most? Pray about your response.

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