

I. Following Jesus through betrayal

- A. Jesus knows that Judas is going to betray him, and that it will mean his death
- B. Yet he still includes Judas: at his table, in his plans, in his promises
- C. Why? Judas serves a unique purpose in the God's plan
- D. Expect betrayal by other believers (and disappointment, and hurt; Luke 17:11)
- E. Know that you cannot see it coming
- F. Love others even though they may break your heart
- G. Realize that they cannot and will not destroy God's plans or promises (read Revelation 21-22)

II. Following Jesus to greatness

- A. Quickly the conversation changes (Matthew 20:20-23)
- B. How *not* to pursue greatness:
- C. How to pursue greatness: like a servant, or like the youngest
- D. Does this work? *No*.
- E. I "assign" or "covenant" with you a kingdom, as the Father did with me

III. Following Jesus in leadership

- A. Jesus knows that the others will abandon him
- B. Satan has demanded to sift you like wheat
- C. But I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail
- D. Now for orders: "Once you have returned [retraced your steps], strengthen your brothers."
- E. A true leader of God's people is one who:
- F. Peter's denial had to happen before he could be ready to lead the leaders
- G. If you want to be a leader – in the church or in the world – humble yourself

IV. Depending on Jesus

- A. We are Judas
- B. We are the apostles
- C. We are Peter