

Sermon Notes

Living With(out) Regret

Luke 22:47-62

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- What's the primary filter through which you are "viewing" the pandemic? *TV? Web? Friends and Family?*
- How does the "lens" of scripture and the story of Jesus inform your understanding? Or help you know how to, and give you strength to respond?

Judas – Disillusionment? Disappointment with Jesus

As a political or religious leader?

Jesus' Leadership . . . was generally about sowings seeds, creating a foundation, mostly unspectacular, but providing spectacular strength and direction for ordinary people . . .

Read: Matthew 7:24-27

Peter – Going in the right direction then overcome by weakness

- Amazing courage – he follows into the place of Jesus' interrogation!
- Amazing Weakness – he crumbles, three times

How do we respond? To deal with and avoid regret?

1ST CONFESS – Our Sin & Weakness:

. . .we're ALL in the same boat with Judas and Peter. And remember:

If we deny that we have sin, the truth is not within us but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:8)

In the new time you have:

Be specific. Make a list of all your weaknesses, sins and regrets. Then bring them to Jesus to take them away and hang them on his cross; He died to bury them

2nd – DECIDE/DETERMINE to allow Jesus to set your Direction

- Remember the words in Hebrews: *He'll never fail you or forsake you (13:5)*
- And the Apostle Paul: *His grace will be sufficient for you. (2 Cor. 12:9).*

In the new time you have:

Pray a prayer that echoes the first three steps of Alcoholics Anonymous:

Step 1: Confess to God that your life is not heading in the right direction.

Step 2: Tell God, that his power is what you need . . . then

Step 3. Make a decision to turn your will and your life over to Jesus as Lord

Have you ever done that? Do it again! Or for the first time

3rd -- CHECK your Foundation

- Remember how the pumps and levees failed in new Orleans when the storm hit on August 29, 2005? . . . so

In the new time you have

Make time for serious ***introspection***. Get a notebook, go into a room by yourself and shut the door (as Jesus says in Matthew 6:6), and spill/spell this out to yourself and God. **Dig deep** into your soul, and **ask** . .

- *What are my hopes and dreams?*
- *What am I most scared of losing or becoming?*
- *Who or What am I living for?*
- *Has Jesus become like a talisman
= a protector of hopes and dreams that are more MINE than HIS?*

C.heck – D.ecide – C.onfess .. YES! . . Follow the CDC!!

Robert Coles, The Secular Mind, (1999)

The woman was a young grandmother, born in Italy , who came to the United states when she was fifteen. She was married, and had brought up a family, and now was helping her daughter bring up another family. She said (to Carlos Williams): "It's become different going to church here than it was when I was in Italy and when I first came here.

- Back then, I used to sit and talk to God and try to figure out what God wanted. And tried to please God.
- Now I mostly think about what is going on in my life and my kids' lives and I ask God to make it better.
- It used to be that I prayed to God ***that I would learn what God wanted from me, and how God wanted me to behave.*** I wanted God's help to be that kind of person, the kind God wanted.
- But now I pray to God ***that God help us with this problem or that, and I'm only asking God to help out with things.***

