

Garden to Garden - Part 5

Bible Study Discussion Guide

Bible Reading:

1. Matthew 27:1-10 (ESV)

"When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor. Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying, 'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.' They said, 'What is that to us? See to it yourself.' And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, 'It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money.' So they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field as a burial place for strangers. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, 'And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me.'"

2. Jeremiah 18:1-6 (ESV)

"The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: 'Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words.' So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was



working at his wheel. And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do. Then the word of the Lord came to me: 'O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? Declares the Lord. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.'"

Observation Questions:

1. In Matthew 27:3-4, what actions did Judas take after realizing Jesus was condemned?
2. How did the chief priests respond to Judas when he returned the thirty pieces of silver?
3. What did the religious leaders do with the thirty pieces of silver after Judas returned them?
4. According to Jeremiah 18:1-6, what does the potter do with the clay, and how does this relate to God's message to Israel?

Interpretation Questions:

1. How does Judas's regret differ from true repentance, as discussed in the sermon?
2. What did Pastor Joel suggest about the effectiveness of religion without Christ, and how is this reflected in Judas's actions?
3. In what ways does the sermon describe God's role as the Potter, and how does this relate to our personal experiences of pain and sorrow?



Application Questions:

1. Reflect on a time when you felt deep regret over a decision or action. How did you respond, and what steps did you take towards repentance and transformation?
2. Pastor Joel emphasized the futility of seeking solace in religion without Christ. Are there areas in your life where you might be seeking comfort or hope outside of Jesus? How can you redirect your focus towards Him?
3. Pastor Joel discussed the tragedy of Judas's end. How can we support those around us who might be struggling with feelings of hopelessness or despair?
4. Matthew 27:6 describes the hypocritical minds of the religious leaders. Are there areas in your life where you might be acting hypocritically or self-righteously? How can you align your actions more closely with the truth and love of Christ?
5. Reflect on the metaphor of God as the Potter. How can you trust in God's sovereign plan, even when you are experiencing chaos or darkness in your life? What steps can you take to remind yourself of His presence and purpose in your life?

