

APPLICATION

Good Friday Bible Teaching

Matthew 26 – Are you & I

Like Jesus' enemies, do we ever put Jesus on trial & demand that he explains himself to us? Do we hold back from submitting ourselves totally to Jesus until he proves himself to us & helps us to understand everything about himself?

Like Pilate, do we ever sit in judgment on Jesus & decide what we'll accept of the Bible & what we won't accept - because we can't understand it or because we don't like it or because it demands too much from us in response?

Like Peter, do we ever deny being Jesus' friend or going to Church? We can deny knowing Jesus by lying & saying that we're not a Christian or that we don't go to Church. We can also deny him by saying nothing when we are given the opportunity to speak up for him in front of our family & pretend, by our silence, that we're not involved.

Like all the disciples, do we desert him? Do we let him down when he's counting on us doing something for him or saying something for him? Does he want to use us in some way, but we run away & let him down?

Like Judas with his kiss that was a pretence at friendship, do we ever pretend to be Jesus' friend when we're not? Or do we ever pretend to be closer to Jesus than we actually are? Do we pretend to know more about him than we do? Do we pretend to serve him more faithfully than we do? Is there any pretence in our Christianity at all?

Like Peter standing in the courtyard at some distance away from where Jesus was on trial, do we distance ourselves from Jesus or from Christianity in any way whatsoever? Do we only get as involved as much as suits us instead of getting as involved as Jesus wants us to be?

Like Peter who cut off the man's ear, do we ever react inappropriately when we are confronted about our relationship with Jesus? Do we ever get defensive, or do we retaliate with some smart, hurtful response? Do we ever find ourselves trying to put someone down for confronting us?

Like Peter, James & John, do we regularly fall asleep when we are supposed to be praying to God?

Like Peter & the other disciples, do we ever boast to others, to God or to ourselves that we will always be faithful to God & that we will never let him down?

Like the disciples who criticised the woman, do we ever criticise the way that other people express their love for Jesus if it differs from the way in which we express our love for him?

Like the woman, do we aim to show Jesus just how much we love him even if it is very costly to us in terms of time, effort, personal sacrifice or whatever?

Have we accepted that Jesus died for us so that we can be forgiven for leaving God out of our lives sometimes or many times & so that we can be his sons & daughters & experience all the blessings he has for us now & in heaven forever?