

RELATIONSHIPS IN FOCUS – PART 1: PERCEPTIONS & EXPECTATIONS

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2022

Judas was a follower of Jesus – one of the 12 closest. Judas had perceptions and expectations about Jesus and what following Jesus means. In the time leading up to Jesus’ arrest and crucifixion (and resurrection, by the way), the tension Judas experienced intensified and he tried to get Jesus to do what he expected. In some ways, there is a bit of Judas in each of us – because we all have perceptions and expectations. But unlike Judas, we can avoid the mistake of the perceptions and expectations being misused.

READ MATTHEW 26:1-16; 27:3-5

- Have you ever tried to get God to be on the same page with you?
- What are some ways you’ve tried to bargain with God to get what you want/expect?
- Why do you think it’s so easy to take a “what’s in it for me” approach to relationship with God?
- Why might Jesus’ followers have been indignant at this woman’s actions?
- What are some reasons Jesus might have declared the woman’s actions as good/beautiful?
- What do you think Jesus meant when he told his followers they would not always have him with them?
- Do you think Jesus’ followers wondered what would happen to them after Jesus’ death? Why or why not?
- What might have motivated Judas to go to the Jewish religious leaders?
- Why did the 30 pieces of silver that seemed so valuable eventually have no value whatsoever to Judas?
- What perceived valuable things have you leveraged to try and get God to do what you want/expect him to do?
- What does it mean to you that we cannot force God’s hand or thwart God’s plan?
- What does it mean to you that God will not stand in the way of what we want, even if what we want undermines what’s best for us?
- Have you ever misused your perceptions and expectations of God?
- What next step will you align your perceptions and expectations with who God really is?

PERCEPTIONS & EXPECTATIONS CAN BE MISUSED