

groups.

— Notes | April 13th, 2025

Lost Cause: Judas

We've all found ourselves in messes of our own making—often unable to see how we got there or believing there's no way out, so we consider the situation, or ourselves, a lost cause. However, Jesus offers another way. He offers the Way, the Truth, and the Life for our mess. No one is too far gone for God to save! Judas, one of Jesus' Twelve Disciples, made his own mess and didn't see a way out of it. He treated Jesus' words like a lost cause, instead of believing that His words were the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Just like Judas, the enemy wants you to believe that you are lost cause. God wants you to know that you are *not* a lost cause. There is a way out of your mess. Jesus did not come to condemn you, but to save you through His dying act of salvation on the cross. Confess your mess, repent from your mess, and believe the same salvation can be extended to others' mess.

Key Scripture | John 12:6, Matthew 26:14-16

John 12:6

"He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it."

Matthew 26:14-16

Then one of the twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?" So, they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

Related Scriptures — Matthew 10:39, John 3:16-17, John 14:16, John 10:10

Icebreakers:

Q: What is your favorite ice cream flavor and topping?

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Key Thoughts and Reflections:

I. Before the victory of Jesus on the Cross, there was a mess where “lost cause” prevailed.

Q: Why is it important to remember the mess before the victory on the Cross?

Q: Can you think of a time in your life where things looked hopeless, but something redemptive came out of it?

Q: How does the lost cause moment before the cross help us relate to Jesus more personally?

II. We often make our own mess and can't see a way out of it.

Q: Why is it sometimes hard to recognize the part we play in our messes?

Q: Has there been a time where you had a Trig/math class moment like Pastor Kevin did?

Q: Why do you think we sometimes feel too stuck in our messes, even though Jesus offers us victory?

III. I can be “near Jesus” yet treat His words like a lost cause.

Q: What does it look like to be “near Jesus” but not trust His words fully?

Q: Why do you think people can go to church, read their Bible, say they're Christian, yet still feel far from Jesus?

Q: Have you ever doubted Jesus' words can apply to your situation? What made you believe again that His words were true?

IV. Jesus came not to condemn, but to redeem the mess we've made.

Q: How does knowing that Jesus came to redeem and not condemn change the way we view our messes?

Q: What does redemption look like in your own story?

Q: How can we extend this redemptive mindset to our “one” this Easter?

Get Practical

Write out your testimony to share with your one as you invite them to Easter. Here is a framework to get you started:

- How did you come to KNOW GOD?
- Where did God help you FIND FREEDOM?
- What PURPOSE did God help you DISCOVER for you?
- How does God help you MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

God will give you the words to say! Remember that we are not a lost cause because Jesus gets the final victory. Pray for your one and invite them to Easter using the Easter invite cards you received from church today.