

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

LENT 2021 PARTICIPANT GUIDE

WEEK 4: FISTFUL OF DOLLARS

03.14.2021 | Matthew 26:14-16; 27:1-10

If you suddenly had an opportunity to instantly earn \$30,000 worth of extra income, what would you do with it?

In the same train of thought, if anyone in our congregation purchased \$80,000 worth of perfume just to pour it out “at the feet of Jesus,” how would you react?

It is clear that Judas really wanted/needed the money. While Matthew paints the motivation for his betrayal as Judas’ love for money, Luke paints it as a deeper spiritual problem, that “Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot” (See Luke 22:3-6). Whose assessment of the situation do you agree with more? Why or why not?

Compare Judas’ motivation for betraying Jesus to the one of Peter (See Luke 22: 54-71). Both Judas and Peter betrayed Jesus, but Judas became the embodiment of evil, while Peter became the first pope of the church (according to the Catholic tradition). While Judas openly expresses his remorse, Peter does not until Jesus sees him again after the resurrection. Why is it that one is highly regarded while the other is not?

Judas had shame on his sense of self, especially wrapped around money. Some of us also link our sense of self wrapped around money, sex, power, our physical looks, and/or even control. How are we called to faithfully respond to such a condition we find ourselves in?

Our spiritual healthiness is most definitely related to mental health, and we are called to be faithful stewards of all aspects of our well-being. How are you taking care of your body, soul, mind, and spirit to be a faithful disciple of Jesus?

CHURCH-WIDE MISSION: SHARING SHOES & JOY IN PERU

“Some call it the “Wall of Shame,” the high, thick concrete wall topped with barbed wire that separates some of Peru’s poorest neighborhoods from the most affluent. In one of these poor neighborhoods, on our mission trips to Peru, we play games next to the wall, on a bare dirt soccer field. A hole in the wall allows a glimpse of the green parks and gleaming white buildings on the other side. On the rich side, shoes are a status symbol—soft leather, stiletto heels. On the poor side, shoes can mean the difference between illness and health, or whether a child is allowed to attend school. For these kids, it’s not the value of the shoes that’s important. Instead, new shoes help communicate the inherent value of the child.”

- Lanie Williams, Mission Coordinator



A brother and sister play in front of the wall that separates their community from the wealthy one on the other side.

Join us in serving families in Peru by donating new shoes and socks, volunteering to sort and prepare shoes for delivery, or donate to help build more bathrooms.