



Week of July 11, 2021

Discussion Questions:

1. Talk about a time when you tried to bargain with God. What were you willing to do? What did you expect God to do in return?
2. How do you feel when bargaining leaves you empty-handed? Where do you direct the focus of your anger?
3. How can we learn to become aware of our tendency to bargain with God? What are the tell-tale signs?
4. Matt said, "When we begin to bargain with God, we take full responsibility for the outcome of our journey. When we obey, God takes full responsibility for the outcome of the journey." How does owning this truth simplify our decisions?
5. Read John 13:31. What do you think the disciples were thinking in that moment when they heard Jesus' confidence in His Father? Looking back at the story after His resurrection, how did their view of Jesus' confidence in the Father change?

6. What area is God showing you this week where you have moved from obeying to bargaining? What will you do to stop the bargaining and simply obey God? How can this group pray for you?

Moving Forward

When we begin to bargain with God, when we resist surrendering to Him, when we decide there's something more important to us than Him, we then take full responsibility for the outcome of our own journey.

God will not get in the way of us having our own way because He values our freedom and ability to choose too much to take it from us. But there's a high price to pay when we choose our own way.

Matthew 19:27

Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?"

Matthew 26:6-16

While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, ⁷a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. ⁸When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. ⁹"This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor."

¹⁰Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ¹¹The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. ¹²When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. ¹³Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

¹⁴Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests ¹⁵and 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. ¹⁶From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

John 13:21, 27, 31

²¹After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me."

²⁷As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

³¹When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³²If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.