



Opening (5-7 minutes)

- Icebreaker Question: Have you ever let your pride get the best of you and later regretted it? What were the consequences?

Background Passages: John 12:4-6; Luke 22:3-6; Mark 14:21; Matthew 27:3-4

Discussion (30-40 minutes)

Understanding Judas' Background

- The sermon suggests Judas Iscariot's surname might connect him to a place he was from or to the Sicarii, a group of violent Jewish rebels. How might Judas' background or expectations (e.g., seeing Jesus as a means to overthrow Rome) have shaped his actions?
- Why do you think Judas referred to Jesus as "Rabbi" instead of "Lord", unlike the other disciples? What might this reveal about his view of Jesus?

The Role of Pride

- Alan identified pride as the primary cause of Judas' meltdown, opening the door for Satan to influence him (Luke 22:3). How does pride manifest in our lives today, and how can it lead to destructive decisions?

Free Will and Responsibility

- The sermon emphasized that Judas had free will and was responsible for his betrayal, despite Satan's influence and God's foreknowledge (John 6:70, Mark 14:21).

How does this balance of free will and God's sovereignty challenge or encourage you?

- How can we guard against allowing negative emotions like greed, jealousy, or anger to lead us into sinful choices?

Regret vs. Repentance

- Judas regretted his betrayal and acknowledged his sin (Matthew 27:3-4), but the sermon notes we are never told he repented. What is the difference between regret and true repentance?

Application: Avoiding Our Own Meltdown

- What practical steps can we take to cultivate humility and prevent pride from leading us astray?
- How important a role should our Life Groups play in helping to hold us accountable and pursue repentance when we fall into sin?

Closing Reflection and Prayer

- Take a moment to silently reflect on the question: "Could I become so prideful that I allow evil into my heart? Could I wish harm on others? Could I betray those closest to me?"
- Pray together for God to cultivate a culture of faith built upon humility that leads to repentance at Cumberland, in our Life Groups, and in each of us.



Use the questions below to help extend the impact of the weekend message. They are not only useful in your LifeGroup, but try discussing with your family, friends, and co-workers for even greater understanding and spiritual growth.