



what if what happened then
changes everything now?



the easter experience

His Closest Followers

**When things got really hard
the disciples deserted Jesus**



Deserted

Have you ever been deserted in your greatest hour of need?

Nobody likes to see someone betrayed or hurt,
especially when the rejection comes from someone
to whom we've felt very close

It was one thing for the crowds and the soldiers to turn
against Jesus, but where were the disciples?

Nowhere to be Found



Deserted

**When life gets hard what
do you do with Jesus?**



Matthew 26:36-41

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”



Deserted

This happened two more times. he had asked his closest companions to be in prayer.

But after a big meal and a stressful, long day they began to zone out

FATIGUE



Fatigue

When Jesus requested their prayers, they wanted to comply, but they were too tired

“The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.”

Our intentions are good, but often we're just too tired to do what we know we should



Matthew 26:55-56

In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.



Deserted

The disciples awakened to a crowd of people who had come to arrest Jesus

What an overwhelming scene.

Torches, soldiers, and weapons surround them

It appears when they had the opportunity they ran out of fear to save their hides

FEAR



Simon Peter's Story

**Peter is the leading spokesman
for the disciples**

Then Jesus told them, “This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: “I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.” Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.” “Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the other disciples said the same.



Matthew 26:31-35

Simon Peter's Story

Peter has an “I” problem

It's as if he looks at the rest of the crew and says,
“You know what? These guys might disown you but not me

No Soldiers

No Mob

No Swords or Whips

There was just a group of people who loved Jesus

ARROGANCE



Pride Comes Before a Fall

Pride causes us to overestimate ourselves and underestimate our need to depend on God

Dealing with pride is difficult because very few people acknowledge or recognize it in their own lives

We have no trouble spotting this in others but rarely see it in ourselves



Pride is Blinding

The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rocks and make your home on the heights, you who say to yourself, 'Who can bring me down to the ground?'
"The pride of your heart has deceived you."

Obadiah 1:3



Peter's Story

Peter follows at a safe distance to find out what is happening with Jesus

He denies Jesus three times

He even curses for emphasis

Immediately a rooster crowed

Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." and he went outside and wept bitterly.



Juda's Story

A fairly good case can be made that, until the betrayal, Judas was one of Jesus' closest friends.

Judas had what was called the place for the honored guest, the place of the intimate friend

He was put in charge of the money bag

DISILLUSIONMENT



Juda's Story

Many Christians desert God because they didn't think he was doing his job. They had these unwritten expectations



If you see Jesus as a wise counselor who will solve all of your problems and bring family harmony immediately, you are going to be disillusioned.



Look at Jesus dying on the Cross

His mother was present

We don't read anything about his father

Maybe Joseph had died

His brothers didn't believe on him at this point

**If you see Jesus as the great physician
who will heal all of your problems,
you will be disillusioned.**



Juda's Story

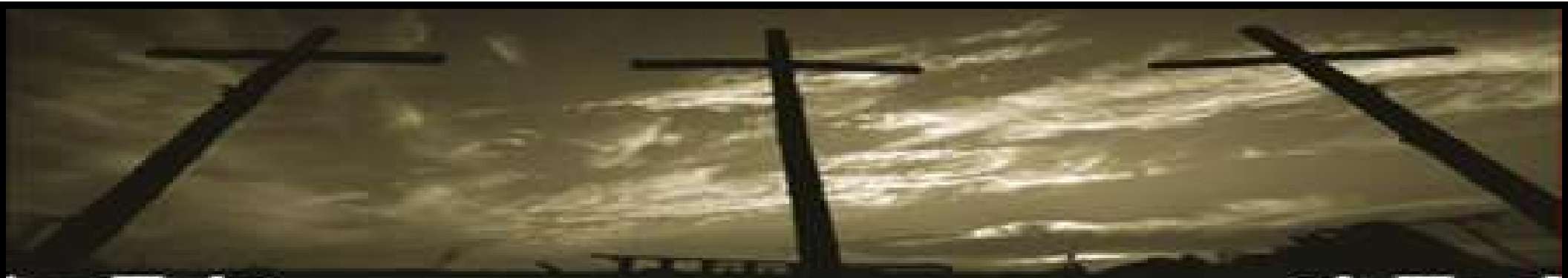
In the end thought make no mistake
it was all about the money

Judas saw an opportunity to make
a profit from Jesus and he did

The relationship was less valuable than his wallet

Is Judas your story?





what if what happened then
changes everything now?



the easter experience