



# Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



## Episode 119 - Intentions Are Everything, Right? (Mark 14)

### A Costly Investment

Some of the disciples were angry the woman invested so much money in anointing Jesus, when there were poor who needed food.

- Why do you think Jesus came so strongly to her defense?
- What was this woman's motivation that Jesus was honoring?
- How does your congregation determine its budgeting priorities?
- What do you think about a congregation spending large sums of money on
  - its church building?
  - lavish furnishings for that building?
  - decorative or fancy architecture?
  - a top-of-the-line multi-media system?
  - an expensive pipe organ?
- What would be God-pleasing motivations for a congregation investing in these things?
- How do you decide how to balance the amount of money you will spend on things for yourself or your family and how much you will contribute to church?

### Is Our Intention Everything?

- Does God base His judgment of our actions solely on the motivation behind those actions, or does He also consider the actions themselves?
- Is there a time when the wrong of an action overrides any good motives or intentions behind them (i.e. when the ends don't justify the means)?

Many times we do things with the best intention, but people take them the wrong way. Other times we might do something good for someone but do it for all the wrong reasons. God's judgment cuts through our actions and looks at the intention and motivation behind them. But are our good intentions enough to mitigate evil actions?

Judas may have had any number of motivations behind his agreement to betray Jesus to the Jewish authorities. It may have been the evil motive of simple greed as John points out (see John 12:6). It may have also been a noble motive like trying to force Jesus' hand as Bruce suggests in the video. Only God and Judas know what his true motives were.

- Even if Judas' motives were noble, does that justify the action he took to attempt to accomplish his purpose?
- Why is it important for us to carefully consider both our actions and the motives behind them?
- What are some of the difficult decisions you find yourself making at home, at work and at church?

### The Great Reenactment

- What events from your family's life do you relive and commemorate each year?
- How do you celebrate, remember and relive those special events?
- Which of these events are the most important to you? Why?

God's timing is absolutely perfect. During the reenactment of His greatest act in the Old Testament—delivering Israel from slavery in Egypt—He completed His greatest act in all human history, delivering all people from slavery to sin and hell through the suffering and death of His Son.

- Why is Israel's freedom from slavery in Egypt considered God's greatest act in the Old Testament?
- Describe the mighty acts God had to perform to force Pharaoh, king of Egypt, to set the Israelites free. (Need a little help? Watch Sunday school episodes 26 through 28.)
- Why does deliverance from a life of slavery in Egypt pale when compared to the deliverance Jesus won for all of us on the cross?
- Read through the Communion service liturgy. How do these words help us relive Jesus' suffering and death?
- What thoughts or meditations help you relive Jesus' great deliverance when you receive His body and blood in the bread and wine?