

CONSIDERING CHRIST'S COMMITMENT

FLAG LOVES FORT SCOTT - PART 6

START TALKING. WITH AN ICEBREAKER QUESTION:

- Share one of your “loyalty commitments” you have and how you came to have it. Example: Sports team, certain brand of peanut butter, etc.

START THINKING. ASK QUESTIONS THAT WILL GET YOUR GROUP THINKING.

- What questions does our culture have about Christ's commitment and sacrifice?
- Read the scriptures on the next pages in preparation for the following conversation.

START SHARING. CHOOSE THE QUESTIONS THAT WILL CREATE OPENNESS.

- Do you have a difficult time embracing pain? Example: receiving a shot, ripping off a bandage, etc.
- What lengths have you gone to in order to avoid someone/something?
- Talk about the courage of Jesus riding right into Jerusalem, knowing full well what awaited Him.
- Mark kept mentioning that Jesus was “being our offering” and we are asked to “bring an offering.” What parallels do you see between the two?
- Read Matt 26:37-42, aloud. Jesus was willing to find another way. How does this make you think different about Jesus?
- Decisions are cheap. Implementation is expensive. What are some decisions you've made, and implemented?
- Jesus didn't defend Himself verbally or physically at either His arrest or trial. Why is it so hard for us to NOT defend ourselves when we are being treated unjustly or unfairly?
- Read Matt 26:6-13, aloud. Talk about how easy it is to misunderstand extravagance. Who in your life thinks you are too extravagant towards God or the Church?

START PRAYING. BE BOLD, AND PRAY WITH POWER.

- Father. Please forgive me for complaining, whining, and generally thinking that You owe me comfort. Please help me keep Jesus at the front of all my thoughts. Amen.

START DOING. COMMIT TO A STEP AND LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK.

- When you are disrespected this week, remind yourself that you serve the most disrespected man who ever lived.

Matthew 21:6-11 (NIV)

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them.

⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them.

⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!"

¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"

¹¹ The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

Matthew 21:26-29 (NIV)

²⁶ But if we say, 'From men'--we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet."

²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We don't know." Then he said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'

²⁹ "'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

Matthew 21:37-42 (NIV)

³⁷ Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said.

³⁸ "But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.'

³⁹ So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

⁴⁰ "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

⁴¹ "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time."

⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "'The stone

the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?

Matthew 21:46 (NIV)

⁴⁶ They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

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⁴⁶ They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (MSG)

⁶ Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop.

⁷ I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.

Matthew 26:6-13 (NIV)

⁶ While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper,

⁷ a 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.

⁸ When 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."

¹⁰ Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me.

¹¹ The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me.

¹² When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial.

¹³ I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."