

A black and white photograph of a hand holding a crown of thorns. A single nail lies on the surface to the left. The background is dark and textured.

**CHADS &
CONTROL**

Luke 22
pages
881-883

**INSTEAD
OF ME**

developing missionaries who
share the love of Christ
with our community & beyond

Beyond These Walls

Please pray for Don and Bev Stark, who will be heading to Southeast Asia on March 13. The Starks will be there for over two weeks assisting the mission team with renovations at a hotel missionaries use when they are serving in the area.

Quarterly Business Meeting

The next FBC quarterly business meeting will be on Sunday, March 18 at noon in the Worship Center.

Next Steps Luncheon

Do you want to know more about FBC's core values, beliefs and mission? Are you ready to take the next step to membership? Join us Sunday, April 15 at noon and we will answer your questions about the heart of FBC Palmetto. Lunch will be provided and childcare is available with advanced registration. Please call the church office to RSVP at 941-722-7795.

Worship Center Update

Although the area where the Welcome Center will be seems quiet, there are a number of things happening behind the scenes and below the surface. This past week there were surveyors on campus establishing elevations and the site was scraped to prepare for grading. Next week a crew will be connecting to the city reclaimed water system for irrigation of current and future landscaping. Please be in prayer for the safety of the workers and the progress of the plan.

VBS - GAME ON!

Vacation Bible School will be June 11-15 from 9 am-12:30 pm. Volunteer training begins TODAY. For more information, contact Julee Williams at 941-722-0810 or email her at JR.Williams@fbcpalmetto.com.



Malachi - Ladies Bible Study

Know God's unchanging love in a new way through the Book of Malachi with Lisa Harper's 8-session, video-driven Bible study. Wednesdays at 6 pm beginning March 14 and Thursdays at 9:30 am beginning March 15. Sign up at www.fbcpalmetto.com/calendar/classes.

Easter Sunday Services-April 1

- 8:00 am Celebration Service
- 9:15 am Celebration Service
- 9:15 am Encounter Service
- 9:15 am Kids Worship
- 10:45 am Celebration Service
- 10:45 am Encounter Service
- 10:45 am Kids Worship

Seasonal Parking

We'd like to encourage those who are physically able to park in areas a little further from the church to allow our first time visitors the opportunity to park near the church. Public parking is available in the highlighted areas.



Discussion Questions

- What are examples of events in your life where you were out of control? Describe how that felt.
- What was the Passover celebrating? How did Jesus fulfill the Passover?
- What events led to Judas' betrayal of Jesus? See [John 12:5-6](#).
- [John 18:3](#) says the crowd coming to arrest Jesus came with torches. Why is it significant to know that Jesus would have seen them coming?
- Why did Judas kiss Jesus? ([Mark 14:44](#)) Why would a kiss make the betrayal that much uglier?
- Read [John 18:5-7](#). Why did they fall down? What does this show us?

2018 Bible Reading Plan

One Year Bible Reading Plan:

WEEK 10

Day 51

[Luke 12:8-59](#)

[Ps 44:1-10](#)

Day 52

[Luke 13](#)

[Ps 44:11-26](#)

Day 53

[Luke 14](#)

[Ps 45](#)

Day 54

[Luke 15](#)

[Ps 46](#)

Day 55

[Genesis 32-33](#)

[Ps 47](#)

Monday - Game 7

By Kel Cunard

"Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" Luke 22:48

This spring marks the 20th anniversary of the Tampa Bay Rays' inaugural season, and this fall will be ten years since the greatest game in team history. After a decade of mediocrity, the Rays won 97 games in 2008 and reached the American League Championship Series against the Boston Red Sox.

After taking a 3-1 lead in the series, the Rays lost the next two games to force a decisive game seven at Tropicana Field. Leading 3-1 in the top of the eighth inning but facing bases loaded and two outs, rookie David Price stepped to the mound. Even though he had been called up to the majors just a month earlier, manager Joe Madden had bet his season on a young man who had only started one game.

As if all the drama of that elimination game wasn't enough, the Cunards were there. With the Rays' history of futility, we didn't know if this would ever happen again, so we bit the bullet and invested in a priceless memory. Julie, Dylan and I (Ethan was sadly way too young to attend) were there with 41,000 of our closest friends as the tension mounted. From the formerly cheap seats in the upper deck, we cheered and we gasped. Our hearts raced faster with each passing out, and there were moments when it seemed like our tickers could explode.

Just the other day I came across the complete game on YouTube. As I scrolled through the footage, I remembered watching Price strike out J.D. Drew to end the threat in the eighth and recording two strikeouts in the top of the ninth. But watching the final moments as Price got fellow rookie Jed Lowrie to ground into a force out at second did not provoke the same anxiety and palpitations. There was certainly nostalgia for the fond memory of seeing unbridled joy on my son's face, but my heart didn't race once. Same scene, same heart, but a very different reaction. I guess there is no reason to be anxious about Game 7 when you know the outcome.

There are moments in life that are far more chaotic and consequential than any sporting event. When circumstances start to spin out of control and we fear we might be on the losing side, our anxiety rises as our hope fades. But what if we were confident of a productive outcome? What if we truly believed God could work all things for our good and His glory? What if our Heavenly Father is always in complete control, even and especially when life feels chaotic?

Read [Luke 22:1-5](#) and [47-53](#). On the night before Jesus died, He was betrayed by a trusted friend, arrested under the cover of darkness, and dragged away to a corrupt court. As the events unfolded, every event seemed to declare that the divine plan had gone off the rails and chaos had taken the reins. Nevertheless, every detail was under God's complete control and His plan to rescue His children would not and could not be thwarted.

The same is true with us. I want order in my life. My flesh longs to control the circumstances swirling around me, but life only works when Jesus is in control *Instead of Me*.

Tuesday - In the Garden

By Cathy Slusser

"Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." Matthew 26:34

I love to garden. I love going to my Earthboxes and picking enough lettuce to make a salad for dinner. Or watching a tomato turn red. They start off a sickly color of green. Then, pale red stripes appear until gradually, over a week or more, the fruit is finally bright red and ready to pick. Strawberries are the same way. Hard drops of green turn into large, soft, red berries, delicious enough that I eat them standing right next to the Earthbox.

I watched one particular tomato, almost the size of my hand, as it progressed from green to red. I imagined how good it was going to taste, lush and ripe, straight off the vine. On the day when it should be ready to pick, it was gone! I looked all over the bush and under the Earthbox. Maybe it grew so large, it dropped off the vine. Nothing. Instead of that sweet and salty fruit, I tasted bitter disappointment.

Gradually, I started noticing more ripe fruit disappearing. Grape tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, strawberries. All gone just as they were turning ripe enough for me to pick. One Sunday, as we drove away from the house to go to church, I looked back only to see my eighty-pound dog, Cory, with her feet on the edge of the Earthbox, head raking the strawberry bushes as she gorged on my crop. Then, I knew where the tomatoes were going. I know I describe a dog who thinks with her belly not her brain, but the intense rush of disappointment and betrayal I felt that morning was as great as any hurt caused by a human in my life. This was Cory, my heart dog. My loyal companion. Eating my produce that I raised and longed for. Those were my strawberries. My prized tomatoes. Gobbled down without a thought.

We have all had some heartache caused by the people (or canines) we love. The disappointment, betrayal, backstabbing, gossip is enough to make us want to lie down in a puddle of tears and never get up again. We can be comforted knowing that Jesus went through far worse betrayal by a man who called Him friend. He understands our heartache and pain. Yet, God used that betrayal to bring us salvation and abundant life. Are you giving your moments of betrayal and heartbreak to God for His use as well?

Read [Matthew 26:17-35](#). Peter denied that he would betray Jesus, but he did anyway. ([Matthew 26:69-74](#)) Yet God used Peter's betrayal to humble him and eventually founded the Christian church upon his teachings and actions. Think about the times you have been betrayed. How has God used that betrayal to bring glory to Him?

Wednesday - Shaken

By Kel Cunard

"Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve." Luke 22:3

Judas is a perplexing Biblical figure. Out of all the people on the planet, he was one of only twelve men who walked alongside Jesus through three years of ministry. Along with the other disciples, Judas was sent out by Jesus to preach the Good News, heal the sick and cast out demons. He saw the lame walk, the blind see, and the dead rise. With all the wonders Judas saw, why does his story leave us wondering?

Between Palm Sunday and Good Friday, Judas took a little time off to run some errands. He snuck off to see the religious rulers and conspired to quietly hand Jesus over to them for the sum of thirty pieces of silver. His betrayal of Christ leaves us shaken. Reflecting on this incident, pastor and author John Piper writes:

Judas left the fellowship of the twelve apostles after the anointing in Bethany and arranged to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-15). But when they met again at the last supper, there he was! Near enough to dip in the Savior's cup.

When our family read this for devotions last night I was angry at the absolute wickedness of Judas coming back to eat Passover with the one he had just sold. I said to my daughter, evidently with more emotion than she was used to, "That is utterly wicked!"

She said, "What is so wicked?" I said: "What if I went out tonight and arranged for a cruel man to kill you on the way to school tomorrow morning? That would be horrible. But then would it not be wicked to high heaven if I came home, after arranging for your murder, and had devotions with you and prayed with you?" She was shaken. Small wonder that Jesus said, "It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

How did a man who walked with Jesus become a wretch who should have never seen the light of day? How did a disciple who saw and assumedly performed miracles become history's greatest traitor? The key to understanding Judas is to investigate his track record. Read John 12:1-8.

How could a disciple of Jesus betray Jesus? How could Judas do such a wicked thing? At least in part, because he had grown accustomed to wickedness. Bit by bit, he had eroded his conscience and grown comfortable with sin.

Why does Judas shake us? Because we have walked that same road. We felt gut-wrenching guilt the first time we stepped across sin's thin red line, but each subsequent visit got just a bit easier. Thankfully, the One who was betrayed became the One who died to set us free. We no longer have to live in slavery to sin's whims. In Christ, we can overcome temptation before sin overwhelms our lives.

Thursday - Betrayed by a Friend

By George Volpe

“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13

True friends are people who stick by you all the time. Their love is not conditional; they care for you in the good times and the bad. They value your friendship more than their comfort. On the other hand, there are people who seem to be friends until you disappoint them. Then they reveal that they never valued you in the first place, and whatever love seemed to be there grows lukewarm and eventually disappears.

Do we do that with God? Do we act like a friend of God and then turn against Him when things go south?

Judas walked with Jesus. He was a disciple and more. Jesus called him a friend. But Judas was not interested in putting Christ first. He was interested in Jesus as far as Jesus could satisfy Judas' desires. Like most people at the time, Judas believed the Messiah was going to overthrow Roman occupation and take a position of power ruling over the nation of Israel. No doubt he expected to be among the ruling elite after this imagined revolution. But Jesus made it clear that He planned to die, not start a rebellion against Rome. So Judas may have assumed—just as the Pharisees did—that since He would not overthrow the Romans, He must not be the Messiah they were expecting.

Judas had other issues as well. He could not let go of his love for money. He was more interested in demonstrating an outward concern for social issues than in the importance of worshipping God. ([Job 12:5](#))

In spite of all Judas saw in the many miracles Jesus performed, it is not likely that Judas truly believed that Jesus was God. If he did, his view of God must have been sorely mistaken. How could he betray a friend like Jesus?

He could do it if he didn't really believe Jesus was God. Or he could betray Jesus if he was after something Jesus would not give him. He would betray Him if something was more valuable to him—like 30 pieces of silver.

We are all capable of betraying Jesus. When things don't go our way we can go in directions that betray our relationship with God. If we let emotions and circumstances steal our eternal focus, we can turn from Jesus. And the devil is waiting to help us shake our fist at God and lead us on destructive paths. Jesus was not surprised by this betrayal. He quietly revealed to Judas that He was aware of what Judas was about to do. Jesus was preparing to begin the awful struggle that would end at the cross. *Read [Mark 14:41-46](#).*

Friday - Fear not

By Kel Cunard

“For God gave us a spirit not of fear...” 2 Timothy 1:7

Fear is a powerful emotion. God wired a capacity for fear into us for a reason. It can prompt our survival instincts and tell our bodies what to do in an emergency. When a fight-or-flight response is initiated, our heart rate and blood pressure increase. Our pupils dilate to allow in as much light as possible. The veins in our skin constrict sending more blood to our major muscle groups. Our muscles are energized by increased adrenaline and glucose levels causing them to tense up. Nonessential functions like our digestive and immune systems shut down to provide more energy for the emergency, and our brain reduces our ability to accomplish small tasks so we can focus on the threat.

Our fear response is remarkable & essential, but...

Our fear response is remarkable and essential, but it can be devastating when it lingers and becomes a new normal in our lives. Stress and anxiety can cause some of the same reactions as fear in our bodies, but their persistent presence can wreck our body and mind. In a recent article in *The Christian Post*, Pastor Charles Stanley outlined the chaos fear can cause in our lives:

- **Fear stifles our thinking and actions.** *I have known talented people who procrastinate indefinitely rather than risk failure. Lost opportunities cause erosion of confidence, and the downward spiral begins.*
- **Fear hinders us from becoming the people God wants us to be.** *When we are dominated by negative emotions, we cannot achieve the goals He has in mind for us. A lack of self-confidence stymies our belief in what the Lord can do in our lives.*
- **Fear can drive people to destructive habits.** *To numb the pain of overbearing distress, some turn to things like drugs and alcohol for artificial relief.*
- **Fear steals peace and contentment.** *When we're always afraid, our life becomes centered on pessimism and gloom.*

Read [2 Timothy 1:7](#). Fear can help us respond to immediate danger, but fear can also take our eyes off Jesus. If you are in Christ, you have nothing to fear when chaotic circumstances rain down on your life. You have nothing to fear because you know the One who reigns.

Because of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection, we can have freedom from fear. What if God is in control of even our most chaotic moments? What if He is never surprised, and knows full well how all things can work for your good and His glory? How would life be different if you truly believed you could “fear not”?

Weekend – Cowardice and Courage

By Kel Cunard

“I do not know him.” Luke 22:57

On the night before Jesus died, Peter was a big talker. Read [Mark 14:26-31](#). At the Last Supper, he declared he would never turn his back on Christ. Even if all the other disciples turned away, Peter was certain he was ready to lay down his life for Jesus. But before the night was over, he would repeatedly and with certainty deny he even knew Him. How could courage so quickly melt into cowardice?

Our cowardice is revealed when our courageous claims are based on *our* strength. Peter’s boldness at the Last Supper was a declaration of his capability. His audacious statements had less to do with his love for Jesus and more to do with his love for himself. Peter’s misplaced confidence proved to be his undoing.

There have been moments in our lives when our courage melted just like Peter’s. The contexts might be different, but the hearts are exactly the same. We aren’t as strong as we think we are, and once we fail miserably, we wonder whether we will ever succeed again.

Peter’s weakest moment did not disqualify him for ministry, and because of God’s grace, neither do ours. Read [Luke 22:54-62](#) and join us this weekend as we begin to turn our eyes toward the cross, and remember God’s grace is greater than all our sins.

Prepare for Worship

As you prepare your heart for worship on Sunday morning read [Psalms 90](#) and remember, no matter what happens in life, “from everlasting to everlasting” He is still God.

Pray for the World: Bolivia

One of only two landlocked republics in the Americas, Bolivia has 43 people groups. Aymara and Quechua peoples, who date back to pre-Inca times, have both experienced major church growth in their midst, and spiritual responsiveness seems to be increasing. Evangelical Christians are growing in number and in influence but face many challenges. Low literacy levels, lack of Biblical knowledge and limited discipleship opportunities give rise to theological error and moral failure. There is a great need to raise the standard of discipleship.

Some other evangelical goals are: a) *For Bolivia to become at least 30% evangelical*. While growth is impressive, this goal is still some way off from being achieved. b) *Increased mission sending*. Bolivia’s sending has increased significantly, but there is still need for further growth. c) *Social engagement*. Evangelicals must be at the core of Bolivia’s battle against poverty, injustice and vice by demonstrating radical Kingdom values. (www.operationworld.org)

Phillip Hamm
Senior
Pastor

Scott Perkins
Music &
Worship

Kel Cunard
Executive &
Education

Todd Poppell
Connections
& Students

Nic Bishop
Encounter Worship
& Creative Arts

Deacons of the Week:

Keith Pike & Stephen Rogalin

This Week:

Sunday, March 11

12:00 pm VBS Volunteer Training

Wednesday, Mar 14

5:00 pm Family Supper: Pork Loin

6:00 pm AWANA

6:00 pm Malachi Bible Study Begins

Thursday, March 15

9:30 am Malachi Bible Study Begins

Sunday, March 18

12:00 pm Quarterly Business Meeting

6:00 pm Easter Worship Concert

Upcoming Events:

Mar 20: SonShiners Luncheon

Mar 26-30: Spring Break

Mar 28: No WNS, children's

Mar 30: Good Friday/Campus Closed

Apr 1: Easter

Apr 3: Deacons Meeting

Apr 4: Carpenters for Christ Meeting

Children's Volunteers

Week 3: March 18

Preschool Worship: Barbara & Al Hall, Andrew & Rachel Marshall (e), Aime McClellan, Sandy Pope, Wesley & Sarah Rosenboom, Janet Stanford, Lilly Tripp, Jared & Danielle Weaver (o)

Bed Babies: Gayle Ballenger, Patty Harrison, Tom & Jennifer Harrison, Laverne Phillips

Kid's Worship: Erin Paris, Troy & Heidi Schroeder

Weekly at FBC

Sundays:

8:00 am Bible Studies

8:30 am Worship Rehearsal

9:00 am Coffee Fellowship in F.H.

9:15 am Celebration Service

9:15 am Encounter Service

9:15 am Bible Studies

10:45 am Celebration Service

10:45 am Bible Studies

10:45 am Preschool Worship (3 & 4 yrs)

10:45 am Kids Worship (K-5)

6:00 pm High School Youth

Monday-Friday:

7:30 am WEE World

8:30 am Church Office

2:30 pm King's Kids

Wednesdays:

3:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal

5:00 pm Family Supper

6:00 pm Prayer Meeting

6:00 pm AWANA Clubs

6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

6:15 pm Middle School Youth

7:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal

Thursdays:

6:30 pm Encounter Band Rehearsal


encounter
service

Sundays at
9:15 am


celebration
service

Sundays at
9:15 & 10:45 am

First Baptist Church of Palmetto Presents:

A worship concert filled with
dynamic & inspiring music
featuring our 90 voice choir
& 25 member orchestra

Jesus Is

Sunday
March 18
@ 6 pm

Admission
is free
Doors open
@ 5 pm