

SERMON OUTLINE

Market Street Church of Christ ♦ 3745 Market St. NE, Salem, OR 97301 ♦ (503) 362-5634

Why I Gave Up: Losing Commitment Jun 13, 2010

I. How Commitment Works: **Revelation 2:8-11** - Smyrna

A. Working for What Is Important / Valuable

1. "Crown of life... not hurt by second death"

B. Taking Personal Responsibility / Decision

1. Each of these "letters" is a call to action

C. Taking It to Completion / Persevering

1. Tribulation, poverty, blasphemy, prison, testing, death
2. Time & Commitment go together

II. Some People To Whom I Would Like to Talk

A. Judas - Failing to See the Value / Importance

1. **Matthew 10:1-4** - Authority from H.S. - betrayed
2. **John 12:1-6** - His love for money
3. **Matthew 26:14-16** - Disgust over Jesus' devaluing money
4. **John 13:21,26-30** - Ready to do it
5. **Matthew 27:3-5** - Remorse, hanging

B. Pilate - Failing to Decide to Live for Jesus

1. **John 19:10** - I have authority to release / crucify"
2. **Matthew 27:18** - Knew the truth - envy
3. **Matthew 27:19** - Warned by wife
4. **Matthew 27:23** - No evil committed
5. **Matthew 27:24** - "I am innocent"

C. Hymenaeus - Failing to Persevere

1. **1 Timothy 1:18-20** - shipwrecked faith
2. **2 Timothy 2:14-18** - astray from truth - teaching...

III. Being Committed to Christ

A. Will I Be One of These Sad Cases???

1. **Luke 12** - Eat, Drink, Be Merry - Fool! (Misplaced value)
2. **Acts 26:28** - Agrippa - Almost persuaded?? (No decision)
3. **2 Tim 4:10** - Demas - loved this present world (gave up)

B. What I Need to Remember

1. **There is nothing more important: 1 Timothy 4:8**
2. **I've got to make a choice: 1 Kings 18:21**
3. **I've got to stay the course**

IV. Questions: Are you ready to commit?

A. The questions I'd ask of Judas:

1. When was the first time you stole from Jesus? Guilty?
2. What did you think about Jesus, great teacher? God? Powerful?
3. Why do you think He chose you as an apostle? Do you think He saw something good in you?
4. When did you realize it was all a farce? Right away? Half?
5. Do you know what Jesus went thru because of your choices?
6. Do you remember a time when you almost gave it all to Jesus?
7. Was the money worth it? What did you buy with the money?
8. Why didn't you come back to Jesus and apologize?
9. If you could do it again - what value would you place on your relationship with Jesus?

B. The questions I would ask of Pilate:

1. How sure were you about Jesus' innocence?
2. What were the main reasons you did not stand for Him? Popularity, fear of losing position, fear of persecution?
3. What was it like to talk to the Son of God?
4. Could you have done anything else to secure His release?
5. Do you feel bad for what happened? Did your conscience bother you when He was crucified?
6. How close did you come to going against the crowd?
7. Would you do anything different if you had it to do over again? What would that be?
8. Do you think it would have been easy to stand for what was right? How would your life had been different if you had made the right choice?
9. Was the choice you made worth it?

C. The questions I would ask of Hymenaeus:

1. When did you give up on your devotion to Christ? Was it all-of-the-sudden or was it gradual?
2. What do you think was the main cause of giving up your faith? Was it pride? Something? Someone?
3. How did you convince yourself that what you were doing was right? Did your conscience kill you at first? How did you push its proddings aside?
4. Did you ever think about coming back to Christ? Why didn't?
5. How many people do you think you influenced down the wrong path over the years?
6. If you could do it over again, do you think you would work harder at staying true to Christ?