



## LESSON 9 // THE PROCESS AND PAIN OF BETRAYAL

**Big Idea:** We learn from the accounts of Judas Iscariot in the Gospels that good starts do not guarantee strong finishes. Also, compromising your spiritual commitment to Jesus is a subtle and slippery slope. In contrast, honoring your spiritual identity helps you finish strong. This involves appreciating and embracing every opportunity God gives you to learn, repent, grow and change, and being alert to the devil's schemes.

**1 Corinthians 10:12 (NLT)** *If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall.*

**2 Timothy 4:7 (NLT)** *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.*

**Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)** *For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

**Matthew 6:19-21 (NLT)** *Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.*

**1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)** *Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.*

**2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV)** *We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

### Start Talking:

What is one of the toughest challenges you face (or have faced) that tries to entice you away from the Lord and His ways?

### Start Thinking:

**Read 1 Corinthians 10:12 and 2 Timothy 4:7.** What do you learn from these verses about staying strong to the end in your journey with the Lord?

**Read Ephesians 2:10.** What do you think the Apostle Paul means when he says that you are "God's masterpiece"? How should this impact your identity and how you view yourself?

**Read Matthew 6:19-21.** How do these verses speak to you about priorities and values in your life?

**Read 1 Peter 5:8 and 2 Corinthians 10:5.** Why is it so important to be aware of and alert to the work of our spiritual adversary? What are some of the ways you can resist him and his attacks?

### Start Praying and Doing:

Pray for God's wisdom and grace to stand strong against spiritual attacks in your life. Ground yourself in His Word so that you are thinking about and living out your true identity in Christ—and not detoured by the lies of the devil, the world around you or your own flesh (see 1 John 2:15-17).