**Pastor Marcus Robinson March 1, 2020**

**Close, But Not Close Enough**

John 6:66-71

**Key Truth:** Our closeness to God is determined by our actions and motives, and how we respond with our opportunities.

**Valuable Lesson From The Life Of Judas:**

1. Judas life shows us how a person can regularly

 experience Christ’s presence but refuse to change.

 A. No one has an advantage when it comes to faith.

 B. We all start off on the same playing field of sin.

 C. No one is more spiritual than the other person unless

 you choose to.

**Reasons People Refuse To Change:**

1. They don’t want to change.

2. They don’t have a need to change.

3. Change requires giving up something you presently

 value.

**The Tragedy Of An Unrepentant Life:**

1. Judas actions led him to have remorse, but he

 maintained the same sinful behavior.

 A. True repentance produces real change.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Decide on a plan of action to strengthen your relationship with God. Don’t waste precious time being just remorseful but live a life of repentance.

**Food For Thought**

How does a biblical understanding of faith differ from how our culture thinks of faith?

In John 6: 64 and 70-71, what does John say to indicate that Jesus knew that some of His followers at the time were not true believers and that Judas would betray Him?

What purpose did God have for Judas? What does this suggest about God’s sovereignty over even unbelievers in the midst of the church (see also 1 John 2:19-20)?

How should the fact that many disciples no longer followed Jesus after hearing this “hard teaching” sober us? Why should we never compromise our doctrine for the sake of retaining “healthy numbers” in our services?

How should we approach people who are tempted to abandon Christianity? How can help them see that truth and satisfaction cannot be found outside of Jesus?

If Jesus asked you the question, “You don’t want to go away too, do you?” how would you respond? What are some reasons you remain committed to Jesus? What is your hope for remaining faithful to Him? How can Peter’s words in verses 68-69 offer you hope and assurance?