

Don't Do that | Ryan Wekenman | 03.27.22

## Weekly Study

### START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following questions:

**What's your favorite thing to do in Austin when the weather is warmer outside?**

### SHARE

Welcome back! This week Ryan kicked off our brand new series "Stand Alone" by walking us through the best way to make a decision. The first step in doing so is to discern what not to do. The disciples modeled an (im)perfect example of that in the garden of Gethsemane the night Jesus was arrested to be crucified. The disciples fell asleep in the garden, Judas betrayed Jesus, and Peter pulled a sword on the guards arresting Jesus. We must ask ourselves: do our decisions advance the Kingdom or ourselves? Our decisions will either lead us to life bearing good fruit, or they will lead us down a road of destruction. Ryan noted a few pointers that can help us make the best decision(s): Don't let bitterness lead. Don't surround yourself with the wrong crowd. Don't focus on what's missing. Don't stop coming back to the table.

**What's one decision in your life that's currently weighing on you?**

**Which point from Ryan's message can help guide you in making the right decision?**

**What was the most challenging part of your week?**

**What was the highlight of your week?**

GROW

**Matthew 26:47-51**

**What was the difference in Jesus' response and the response of the disciple?**

**How does the response of Jesus resonate with Ryan's message?**

At the beginning of these verses, Jesus is betrayed by one of his closest friends. But instead of fighting back, He sees how what has happened actually fits into the bigger story and plan that His Father has. That perspective allows Jesus to not become bitter. Ryan talked about how bitterness comes from trying to exalt yourself while putting others down and making decisions out of bitterness only leads to bear fruit and burnout. The disciples were also afraid for their own safety that night. Exalting yourself, putting others down, and responding out of bitterness may also come from a place of feeling insecure. Getting the perspective of the Father may also remind you how loved you are and allow you to respond to His love for you.

**Can you share a time when you've felt betrayed?**

**Did you respond out of bitterness? How could you have stepped back, gotten perspective, and responded out of love instead of bitterness?**

MOVE

**Matthew 26:52-56**

**What's your takeaway from this passage?**

**Why do you think Jesus told him to put his sword back?**

In this passage, we get a great reminder of just how human the disciples really were. They were having a genuine reaction to someone they loved being arrested and taken from them for no apparent reason. None of us can fault them, because we can't say we would have reacted any differently in the situation.

Although as the passage continues, Jesus gives purpose to the seemingly chaotic and unjust situation in front of them. Jesus knew that this situation had to happen. As uncomfortable and painful as it must have been for the disciples to experience, it was all actually happening for their eventual good. Something they couldn't understand and couldn't see. So they reacted first in their humanity, rather than trusting what Jesus was saying.

**What is one area of your life that you have a hard time trusting God with, and usually react with humanity first?**

**Which one of the four points below do you most resonate with from Sunday's message?**

**Don't let bitterness lead.**

**Don't surround yourself with the wrong crowd.**

**Don't focus on what's missing.**

**Don't stop coming back to the table.**

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

T O G O

- *"There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death." Proverbs 14:12*