

Intro:**Betrayal...the art of cheating on a loved one.**

...sounds a lot like adultery...because it is!

Because Israel's immorality mattered so little to her, she defiled the land and committed adultery with stone and wood. Jeremiah 3:9

Discussion:**By missing our call we become betrayers...cheaters**

100 years before, this is what God said: This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:10-11).

Fast forward to Ezra: "In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing:..." Ezra 1:1

How did Israel betray their primary calling? _____

How, then, did that affect their specific calling? _____

Small Group Time: God...our lover...wants to take us back

No matter how many times we miss our calling, no matter how many times we sleep around, Jesus is willing to take us back. We can live in such a way as to not be a bad taste in his mouth or to the people around us.

CONFESSION:

- Ask God to see yourself as he sees you. Remember he sees you absolutely and with love.
- Using the Ten Commandments as a guide, journal your sins. When you have finished, go through each commandment one at a time, asking God to forgive you and help you to change.
- Destroy your list in a symbolic act of what it means to have God remove your sins from you.

Application: (Challenge)

Spectator: Eventually we all get screwed over...if we haven't been already. Seems to me that in such a world, finding someone who will NEVER betray you or cheat on you would be fantastic. That's Jesus for ya...and he has a proven track record. Why not give him a shot?

Participant: "So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth." Revelation 3:16 Since God already knows you ABSOLUTELY, there is no point putting on a show for him...be who you are and allow his love for you to change you from the inside out