

MAY 12, 2024

THE GETHSEMANE PRAYER

Pastor Cameron Contrestano // Mark 14:26-52



PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.



26 After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. 27 And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, because it is written, 'I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.' 28 But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." 29 But Peter said to Him, "Even though all may fall away, yet I will not." 30 And Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you, that this very night, before a rooster crows twice, you yourself will deny Me three times." 31 But Peter kept saying insistently, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And they all were saying the same thing also. 32 They came to a place named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here until I have prayed." 33 And He took with Him Peter and James and John, and began to be very distressed and troubled. 34 And He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch." 35 And He went a little beyond them, and fell to the ground and began to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by. 36 And He was saying, "Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will." 37 And He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? 38 Keep watching and praying that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." 39 Again He went away and prayed, saying the same words. 40 And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him. 41 And He came the third time, and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough; the hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. 42 Get up, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!" 43 Immediately while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs, who were from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. 44 Now he who was betraying Him had given them a signal, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him and lead Him away under guard." 45 After coming, Judas immediately went to Him, saying, "Rabbi!" and kissed Him. 46 They laid hands on Him and seized Him. 47 But one of those who stood by drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear. 48 And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me, as you would against a robber? 49 Every day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me; but this has taken place to fulfill the Scriptures." 50 And they all left Him and fled. 51 A young man was following Him, wearing nothing but a linen sheet over his naked body; and they seized him. 52 But he pulled free of the linen sheet and escaped naked.



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REFLECT/CONNECT

Use these questions for a time of individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

- In what ways were you encouraged by last week's study?

- What's the hardest test you've ever taken or endured through?

These questions are designed as a guide for individual study and to foster spiritual conversation with a group of people.

GROW IN THE WORD

- 01.** **On the way to the Mount of Olives, Jesus predicted that his disciples would fall away from him, and that Peter specifically would deny him three times. Then, Jesus prayed fervently in Gethsemane expressing his distress to God and seeking another way forward. Ultimately, Jesus submitted himself to God's will knowing his betrayal was at hand (v. 26-42).**
 - What do you learn about Jesus considering his knowledge of what was about to happen to him? Refer to Zechariah 13:7 & Isaiah 53:4-6 for what Jesus likely had in mind during these events.

GROW IN THE WORD

- How does Peter's self-confident response to Jesus' prediction about his denial contrast with Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane? Specifically, compare v. 29-31 with v. 35-38.

- Jesus fervently prays for God's help rather than trying to muster up his own strength of will in the face of the oncoming trials. In what ways can you better imitate Jesus' humility and dependence on God in your own life?

02. Judas arrived with an armed crowd to arrest Jesus. He betrayed Jesus with a kiss, and the crowd laid hands on Jesus to seize him. Jesus rebuked them for arresting him in secret, then acknowledged that it had been foretold to happen that way in scripture. The disciples all left him and fled (v. 43-52).

- What stands out to you most in this passage?

GROW IN THE WORD

- What do you imagine Jesus must have felt as his friend and disciple treacherously betrayed him with a kiss? See also Psalm 55:12-14; Luke 22:48.

- How does Jesus' unwavering commitment to God's will in the face of imminent suffering challenge you to trust in God and obey, even in the midst of your own trials and struggles?

UPCOMING EVENTS

STORY OF SCRIPTURE

May 17 - 18 | \$79 Per Person | Worship Center

At the Story of Scripture event you'll learn about the threads that weave all of scripture together, find renewed confidence that God knows what He's doing, and most of all, see how you can trust Him in the chaos of life. Learn more and register online or in our app!

WORSHIP NIGHT - SUMMER SERIES

1st Wednesdays | June - September | 7 pm

Join us as we pursue community, growth, and renewal through song and prayer. When we worship with hearts abandoned and eyes fixed on Him, our minds and emotions are aligned with the heart of God, and we experience renewal. All are invited to join us each month this summer!

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Pray to begin your group time. Remind the group why you are meeting: to connect in meaningful relationships, to grow spiritually, and to engage in the life and work of the church together. Reflect on the values you want to share as a group (i.e. confidentiality, authenticity, grace).

CONNECT (30-40 MIN)

You can use these suggestions to foster connection and build community in your group. You can break your group into smaller parts if needed, pick a question to discuss, and let each member get to know one another.

- Spend a few minutes catching up with one another. Share highs and lows from the previous week.
- Pick one of the Reflect/Connect questions in the passage guide or pick an icebreaker to begin your discussion.

GROW (30-40 MIN)

Gather back as a big group if you broke up earlier and have one person pray over your time discussing God's word. As you discuss, don't worry if there are questions left unanswered or unresolved. Reach out to ministry leaders or pastors for any needed clarification.

- Select 2-3 questions from each section. Take time to answer the questions together as a group if members haven't answered them independently.
- Read any cross-references together and discuss.

ENGAGE (30-40 MIN)

Reflect on the biblical truth God revealed to you this week and discuss a plan of action to apply what you have learned. Gather in smaller groups of 2-4 again. Discuss your plan of action and pray for one another.

- Spend time reflecting on how to apply this passage to your life. Discuss the last two questions of each section if you haven't already. Pray together and seek God's guidance to lead you to apply His Word.
- Close the group time by sharing prayer requests and praying for one another.