



Discussion Questions

Sermon Title: Jesus Prepares Himself and His Disciples for Impending Trials

Date Preached: 7/6/25

Speaker: Dr. Elizabeth Drury

Outline: Mark 14:26-42 | Jesus Prepares Himself and His Disciples for Impending Trials

- ❖ **Jesus worships with his disciples and moves resolutely toward fulfillment of divine mission.**
 - In the face of hardship, we see that Jesus worships with his disciples and moves resolutely toward fulfillment of divine mission. His actions show his values of worship, fellowship, and purpose.
 - **Question:** Is that how you face hardship? What values does your stress response reflect?
- ❖ **Jesus admonishes the disciples, but they do not receive it (Mark 14:27-31).**
 - **Question:** Jesus knew the disciples better than they knew themselves. What could have happened had they received his warnings with humble teachability, asking for help not to fall away?
 - Jesus' perspective is about development so that his disciples learn to see themselves as they really are. But it is also about compassion so that they will not despair when they do.
 - **Question:** Jesus will tell us what is true about ourselves. Are you listening, or are you caught up in your own self-understanding, expectations, and ideas?
- ❖ **In Gethsemane, Jesus agonizes in prayer, and the disciples sleep (Mark 14:32-42)**
 - **Question:** Do I trust God enough, rest in his character so fully, that I can willingly accept difficulty from him if doing his will requires it?
 - **Question:** Have you ever been in a situation in which you've prayed, "Lord, I think I'm sensing that this is what you want, and I have to be honest with you: I don't want to do it. But I want to want what you want, and I'm willing for you to help me get there."?
 - Unlike the disciples, Jesus has agonized in prayer and emerges ready to face the cross.
- ❖ **Bottom Line: The life of a disciple is not about trying harder to be a better human but about leaning on the Lord's divine power and presence in surrender to his purposes.**

Questions for reflection or discussion:

Mark 14:26

- When we experience stress or suffering, what do our responses and coping mechanisms reveal about our values? What stands out about Jesus choosing to worship before walking into suffering? What would this kind of worship look like for you amidst your everyday stress and struggles?

Mark 14:27-31

- Peter's pride made it hard for him to receive correction from Jesus. Where have you seen this kind of pride in your own life? What helps you recognize and deal with pride before it takes root?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to be so specific with Peter about his coming denial? What truths about your spiritual condition has God shown you recently, and how have you responded? Who in your life knows the real you and reminds you of God's grace?

Mark 14:32-36

- When you face overwhelming challenges, how do you pray? Are you currently being honest with God in your prayers, or holding something back? How can you grow in your practice of surrendered, honest prayer like Jesus showed in Gethsemane?

Mark 14:37-42

- Why do you think the disciples kept falling asleep even after Jesus asked them to keep watch? In what areas of your life have you become spiritually drowsy or disengaged? What practical (maybe even difficult) changes can you make this week to remain alert in prayer and anchored in God's presence?