



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“Matthew 26:31-56” on October 14 & 17, 2021

CONNECT

How did last week’s passage we read/discussed from Matthew 26:17-30 affect your week?

DISCOVER: MATTHEW 26:31-56

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn’t understand, phrases that didn’t make sense, etc.)?

MATTHEW 26:30-56 Jesus’ praying in Gethsemane, His betrayal, and His abandonment by the disciples are all described in this passage. Jesus, the sinless One who had never experienced guilt, was about to endure suffering for the guilt of all mankind – past, present, and future. This passage describes the Sacrificial Lamb in His humanity, struggling with His Father as He chooses to submit to His Father’s will and drink the cup – to lay down His life for you and for me. Lord and Master to some, Teacher to others – who is this Jesus to you?

SUFFERING, PRAYER AND SUBMISSION: We generally think of Jesus’ suffering in association with the cross, but His agony began in the Garden at Gethsemane when He describes Himself as ‘overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.’ Here He fell face down and prayed three times with His Father in His humanity, asking if this cup could pass from Him but resolving to do His Father’s will.

- Read Luke’s description of Jesus as He prayed in the Garden in Luke 22:39-44.
- Recall a time of intense, overwhelming suffering you or someone close to you have experienced; how would you describe (a) your suffering in light of Luke’s description of Jesus and (b) your perspective or attitude toward God in your deepest moments of despair?
- Those who follow Jesus WILL endure suffering. In all our suffering, God the Father is always looking at the eternal perspective, and God the Son set an example of submitting to God’s will, even knowing what was to come. How does this encourage and strengthen you to prepare for difficult times ahead?
- How do you respond when your prayers are not answered? How often are your prayers offered up “if it be Your (God’s) will?”
- Read Philippians 2:5-11; how does Jesus’ attitude described here and His example of obedience in Gethsemane shape or challenge your perspective on how you can pray more effectively?

WHICH DO WE DO MORE – BETRAY JESUS OR HONOR JESUS? Judas, even after three years of following Jesus and experiencing His love, His power, and His teaching, betrayed Jesus because he had false expectations of Him. Judas’ failure to see Jesus as Lord and Master sends up red flags for us!

- How consistently do our lives show that we honor Jesus as our Lord and Master, more than just our Teacher?
- How does the study of today’s passage challenge you to weed out parts of your thinking/habits/perspective that regard Jesus as Teacher but not as Lord?
- In Matthew 26:35 Peter and the other disciples professed to never disown Jesus, yet by verse 56 they had all deserted Him and fled. What do you think drove their behaviors and responses to what was happening?
- Can you identify with any of them? What can we learn about how weak we can become in our humanity in stressful situations?
- Jesus had ALL THE POWER at His disposal in His Divine nature to bring legions of angels to win the battle He was facing, but He chose to lay down His life, in obedience to Scripture and in obedience to His Father, for all mankind. How does this knowledge impact you on your daily walk with Jesus and encourage you to love others generously as a reflection of Christ?



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.