



March 11<sup>th</sup> 2018: STRUGGLE OF WILLS

## Opening

- With Roger Bannister's 4-minute mile in mind, have you ever done anything that you initially thought was impossible?
- When was the worst time you fell asleep when you wished you hadn't?

## Discussion

- [Read Matthew 26:36-37.](#) If Jesus knew the promises of God, why was he distraught with sorrow?
- Can you think of a time in your life when you were overcome with sorrow? How did you handle it? What was the outcome?
- How does the fact that Jesus modeled sorrow, being overwhelmed and being troubled comfort you?
- In Jesus's life, instances such as the beheading of John the Baptist, the death of Lazarus, and the prayer in Gethsemane all show Jesus in sorrow. How do his actions in those situations show his alignment to the Father's will?
- What keeps us from surrendering our will to God?
- [Read Matthew 26:39-45.](#) How can we let the weight of his agony pierce our hearts? How long do we need to sit with this simple prayer to allow it to change us from the inside out?
- How does Jesus have the inner strength to pray like this when he is most troubled and in anguish?
- [Read Matthew 6:9-10.](#) Good relationships need constant work, maintenance and sacrifice. How does prayer make this happen in our relationship with God? What are some spiritual habits you can develop so when you experience your darkest time, you will pray how you've always prayed?
- Matthew 26:39 and the Lord's prayer show us how to align ourselves to the will of God. What does the Bible say about knowing the word of God? See [Romans 12:2.](#)

## Application

- Eric says the idea that "loving God means I'm always happy" is a trite version of the Gospel. What are some ways you can step out and be vulnerable about your pain and sorrow?
- Where and how have you rationalized your will above God's? What will you do to change that?
- This week, take some time to silently wrestle through the prayer of indifference in Matthew 26:39. Stay in prayer as long as it takes for you to become indifferent to the things you want and truly desire God's will above all things. Even if that means praying all night, it took Jesus that long! Don't forget, our hope for us becoming willing to pray, "not my will, but your will be done" isn't in us, it's in what Jesus has done.