

Life Changing Community Group Discussion Questions

week of 3/29/26

Summary

This Palm Sunday sermon focused on the honest portrayal of Jesus' disciples in the Gospel of Matthew, particularly during the Last Supper and Jesus' arrest. Pastor Mark examined how all the disciples questioned whether they would be the one to betray Jesus, showing that each knew they were capable of such failure. The sermon traced the pattern of biblical characters who were flawed yet chosen by God, from Adam and Eve through the kings of Israel to the apostles. Despite Peter's bold declarations of loyalty, Jesus predicted that Peter would deny Him three times and that all disciples would desert Him. The central message emphasized that Jesus knew His disciples' weaknesses and failures, yet still invited them to meet Him in Galilee after His resurrection. The sermon concluded with the reminder that Jesus' table is open to all who have failed, doubted, or fallen short, offering grace and redemption rather than condemnation.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together in Your name in this Holy Week, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to receive what You have for us today. Help us to be honest about our own weaknesses and failures, just as the disciples were honest about theirs. Lord, we pray that You would speak to each person here according to their need, and that we would not be defensive or prideful, but humble and receptive to Your truth. May Your Spirit guide our discussion and help us to see ourselves clearly in Your light. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

If you could have dinner with any historical figure, who would it be and what would you want to ask them?

Key Verses

1. Matthew 26:21-22
2. Matthew 26:31
3. Matthew 26:33-34
4. Matthew 26:40-41
5. Matthew 26:32

Questions

1. Why do you think all the disciples asked 'Surely you don't mean me, Lord?' when Jesus announced one would betray Him? What does this reveal about their self-awareness?
2. The sermon mentions that the Bible is honest about the failures of God's people. How does this honesty actually strengthen rather than weaken our faith?
3. Peter was confident he would never deny Jesus, yet Jesus predicted he would do it three times. What should that say to us about our ability to evaluate our own faithfulness?

4. Jesus asked His closest disciples to stay awake and pray with Him, but they fell asleep. How do we sometimes fail to be present for Jesus in our daily lives?

5. Jesus said 'After I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.' What significance do you see in Jesus making plans to meet with His disciples after their failures?

6. So how do we do it differently? How can we not be like those disciples?

Life Application

This week, identify one area where you tend to be overconfident in your own spiritual strength (like Peter was). Practice humility by acknowledging your need for God's grace in that area, and commit to spending time in prayer asking for His strength rather than relying on your own.

Key Takeaways

- All of Jesus' disciples recognized they were capable of betraying Him, showing the importance of honest self-examination
- The Bible's honest portrayal of flawed biblical characters helps us see ourselves and our need for grace
- Jesus knew His disciples would fail Him, yet He still loved them and made plans to restore them

- Our failures and weaknesses don't disqualify us from God's love and service
- Jesus' invitation to communion extends to all who have failed, offering grace rather than condemnation

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for this reminder that You know us completely - our strengths and our weaknesses, our faithfulness and our failures. Help us to be honest about our own capacity for sin while also trusting in Your amazing grace. Just as You told Your disciples to meet You in Galilee after their failures, help us to remember that our failures are not the end of the story. Thank You for the cross, for Your sacrifice, and for the table of grace where all are welcome. May we leave here today with humble hearts, knowing that we are loved not because we are perfect, but because You are perfect in Your love for us. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.