

DAY 5: THE LAST SUPPER & THE GARDEN

After days of travel, teaching, and mounting tension, the time had come for Jesus to observe the Passover with His disciples. He gathered with them in an upper room, heavy with the weight of what was about to unfold. This wasn't just another meal. This was the final time Jesus would break bread with His closest followers before His death. It was a moment to teach, to prepare, and to reveal the depth of His love and the cost of what lay ahead.

Once the meal concluded, Jesus led His disciples to a quiet garden. Jesus purposely chose to get alone in a quiet place, set apart, for prayer and reflection before taking on the sacrifice that would save all humanity. Here, the reality of His approaching betrayal and suffering became even more pressing. Fully aware of the pain He was about to endure, Jesus wrestled with His humanity and prayed earnestly, saying, "Not My will, but Yours be done."

MATTHEW 26:26-29, 36-39

"While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is My body.' Then He took a cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.'"

Then Jesus went with His disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to them, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with Him, and He began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then He said to them, 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with Me.' Going a little farther, He fell with His face to the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will.'"

The Last Supper was a deeply significant moment when Jesus established the practice of communion, a sacred act that still unites believers in remembrance of His sacrifice. His body would be broken for us, His blood poured out for the forgiveness of sins. This was far more than a meal. It was a living symbol of His love, a love that would ultimately be displayed fully on the cross.

After the meal, Jesus went with His disciples to the garden to pray. A place where His humanity and divinity met in the tension of what was coming. Though He faced the weight of suffering and sorrow, He chose surrender. In the midst of overwhelming anguish, He prayed, “Not My will, but Yours be done.” His willingness to submit to God’s plan, even as he sweat blood in anticipation of the great suffering he would endure sets a powerful example for us.

The garden becomes a picture for us as well. A quiet place where we can get alone with God, lay down our fears, doubts, and desires before God. Jesus shows us that surrender requires great trust in God’s will above our own.

REFLECT

Is there an area of your life that needs to be surrendered to God? Perhaps it’s a choice, a relationship, or control you’ve been holding tightly. Today, take time to bring it to Him in prayer, saying, “Not my will, but Yours be done.” Choose today to trust Him, even when the path ahead is uncertain or difficult.

PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for showing me the meaning of true surrender through Your life and sacrifice. Help me to follow Your example and trust in God’s plan, even when I don’t fully understand. I give You my will and ask for the courage and strength to walk faithfully each day. Amen.