

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"WHEN THE SIFTING COMES" | LUKE 22:39-53 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

If you needed space to pray and think, where would you go?

"Faithful in the Face of Suffering" (Luke 22: 39-46)

Jesus twice tells his disciples to pray that they might not enter into temptation, and he knew he was about to face temptation.

What does that show about Jesus? What does that mean for his followers today?

Jesus asks God to remove the suffering he was about to face but asks for God's will to be done. His desire to obey God was greater than to be safe. **What are ways people face the same decision today? What helps people to be obedient when it's difficult?**

"Faithful in the Face of Betrayal" (Luke 22: 47-53)

Judas arrives with soldiers to arrest Jesus and the disciples fight back, yet Jesus stops them and even heals a soldier. **Why is it hard to have good reactions when being attacked? How can people be more like Jesus in those moments?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus faced the full force of every temptation, including betrayal and rejection, and was faithful to the end, which is why in Hebrews it says we can draw near to Him in prayer knowing he understands. **What battles and temptations have you been facing lately? Have you been asking God for strength to be obedient or just to escape the problem? Take time to talk to God about how He wants you to respond.**

When The Sifting Comes

I. Slide1 Announce:

A. Slide2-7 AP: Food Pantry. 678/Rise. Office Closed. Movin on up. Job opp. Pics.

B. Slide8 Baby Dedication (1st): *Josephine Bell Andrews*. Tyler & Mical. Julian.

1. This all started back in Ex.13:1,2 **Consecrate to me all the firstborn.**
Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine. [consecrate/dedicate = to render as holy/set apart]
2. Are you willing to commit Jo to God's guidance and protection?
3. Are you willing to make a commitment to be a living example, to teach Jo to trust Jesus, to honor God, and to help others?
4. Ask Audience: Are you willing to help & pray for this family (as an extended family), in their pursuit to having lil Josephine to come to know Christ?

C. Slide9 Update from Nepal:

1. Practically: signed our last doc's in opening a company in Nepal, so we could purchases property for the Ro. Opened our bank accounts. Looked at about 10 properties all around Kathmandu. Narrowed it down to 1 we will start to pursue purchasing.
2. Relationally: were able to have two 2-3 hour meetings with Ro leadership. Again, following up on some of the goals/needs that we identified in our sustainable development plan. Continuing to develop friendships, understanding, and trust. One of the notes we received is that they feel like family, as they know we are always praying for them.
3. Also got to visit the @ Risk girls home with David P. And another org that works on prevention of human trafficking and after care for survivors.

D. Slide10 Prayer: Lord we honor on this Memorial Day, all the military personnel who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom, w/their life. We pray for the families & friends who still miss & mourn the loss of their loved one's.

II. Slide11 Intro: *When The Sifting Comes*

- A. In this last section we read in Luke, Jesus said, *Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail.* This week, the last supper meal is finally over, they spill out of the upper room and head across the Kidron Valley in Jerusalem. This week, the *sifting* has come!
- B. Like playing with my grand boys. One of them (*to remain unnamed*) always assigns everyone their role. He is in charge. He is the good guy. We are the bad guys.
1. When it comes to our story this morning it is the same here, everyone has their roll in the story, **and** each person fails, except **Jesus**.
 2. Note each of their **weaknesses** and failures, **vs Jesus faithfulness** in what He has been called to do.

III. Slide12 FAITHFUL IN THE FACE OF SUFFERING (39-46) READ

- A. Slide13 (39,40) He doesn't say, *Pray you will not be tempted.* No, He says, **Pray that you may not enter into temptation** (i.e. *give into* temptation). It isn't pray that you won't experience temptation, **you will!** Pray that you can handle it.
1. Don't become your own accuser (**ever thought, I shouldn't even be tempted by this!**). That **you think you failed** when you find yourself **being tempted**. Christian, temptations will come, and then come again, & again.
 2. No, don't throw in the towel when the temptation comes **feeling that you have lost**. No, that is the time to **cry out to Him for His help**.
- B. Slide14a (41,42) **And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed.**
1. Jesus says, *give me some space.* **Why?** He needs to **pray** also through **His own** temptations.
 2. Slide14b Heb.4:15,16 **For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw**

near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

C. Remember, only those who successfully resists a temptation **to the end** most fully feels the force of that temptation!

1. Eg: The **Weightlifter** who *successfully lifts and holds overhead the heaviest weight* feels the force of it more fully, than one who attempts to lift it half way and drops it.
 - a) So any **Christian** who has successfully faced a temptation to the end knows that that is far more difficult than *giving in to it* at once.
 - b) So it is w/**Jesus**, every one He faced, He faced **to the end**, and triumphed over it. The temptations were *real* and in fact *most real* because He took them to the end ... and never gave in.

D. Jesus' double prayer: Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me.

Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done. [1) Rescue Me from this suffering. 2) Accomplish Your purposes through Me]

E. [1] The God-man says, *I know suffering is coming, and I don't want it!*

1. Which is *good news* for us living in *a fallen and broken world*.
2. I think sometimes we imagine that *the super-spiritual answer* in our trials is, *I don't care, bring it on, I can handle it. As though suffering is not suffering. As though brokenness is not brokenness. As though hurt is not hurt.*
3. Here Jesus, models for us that the brokenness in our world is **real brokenness** (real *suffering*, real *hurt*).
4. One day it will all go away. **But right now**, when we go through the valley of the shadow of death, and through trials and sufferings, it's not only OK to cry out to the Lord and say, *I don't like this! And if it's all the same to You, can it not happen?* It's not only ok, but right.
5. Listen to this, you don't have to be *Superman*, or *Super-Saint*, or *Savior*. We already have one! :)
 - a) Suffering is real, suffering is hard. That's why they call it suffering. (Jn.11:33 *Jesus wept*, he was *deeply moved within*).

F. [2] Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.

1. Progression: *Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.*
2. I think sometimes we imagine that if we are *truly-spiritual beings* that we will want only one thing at a time, **and** that one thing will be what God wants. That we will always want to do *the right and holy thing*. And so, if we don't only want that 1 thing we feel like **frauds**.
 - a) If we know of some active **obedience** that we should do. Eg. Husbands you know that you're supposed to love your wife like Christ loved the church. And let's say there's some act of service that you could do to show that love, **but** you don't want to *in that moment*.
 - b) At that point you say, *I could, but if I did it, it would just be an act of legalism, it would just be a duty and not out of love. So I ought not do it, because it would be fraudulent.* (And if we stop there *it kind of makes sense*).
3. Now please see here, **Jesus** does not want to go through suffering, **and yet**, what He shows us is **a greater want** that supersedes **the lesser want**. **And then** it controls His actions *moving forward*.
 - a) He is honest about the fact **He does not want to go through suffering**. **But**, He wants something *even more than* not wanting to go through suffering. **What does he want?** He wants the Fathers **purposes** and **will to be accomplished**.
4. So anytime the Spirit is prompting you to **obedience**, **that** you don't want to do, **it's not about** pretending do you want to, **it's about choosing the greater want** over **the lesser want**.
 - a) **So we can actually want multiple things at one time**. Seek God's help to choose the greater wants over the lesser wants. And when we do, **it is not fraudulent, it is faithfulness**. Jesus is showing us the path of faithfulness.

G. **Remove this cup from me** - that's not just saying, *I don't want this lot in life. Or I drew the short straw. Or I don't like this role in life.*

1. **The cup** was a powerful OT image. (cup of God's fury/wrath, Is. 51:17)

2. So He's not just saying, *I don't want to go to the cross because it's going to hurt*, but **this cup** is full of God's wrath against His enemies.

a) Slide14c Jer. 25:15 *Thus the Lord, the God of Israel, said to me: Take from my hand **this cup** of the wine of wrath, and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it. 16 They shall drink and stagger and be crazed because of the sword that I am sending among them.*

3. The gospel, the good news is that ... **This cup** was not poured out on you, but poured out on **Christ**. As Timothy Keller said, *The gospel is that you are so lost and flawed, so sinful, that Jesus had to die for you. BUT you were also so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for you.*

H. Slide15 (43,44) Well, the cup wasn't removed. He is already suffering (*in agony*). And the weight of his prayers was causing, profuse sweat off his body to the ground.

I. Please hear this, that *though* His prayer was answered w/a *No*, His Father sent an angel from heaven to strengthen Him.

1. We are not exactly sure how this angel *strengthened* Jesus. But let's remember, sometimes it's just your presence that God can use. Like going to visit our missionaries, and to remind them that *they are loved, they are cared for by God, they are not forgotten, they are doing a great work, and to keep going.* And hopefully there is a strengthening that happens in this.

J. Slide16a (45,46) Jesus returns to the disciples which are *NOT* the epitome of *faithfulness* in the story, but failure. They, like us, are the contrast.

1. Only Luke tells us *why* they were sleeping ... *for sorrow*. Probably absolutely exhausted from *the heaviness the weightiness of the temptation*. You've experienced when it's not a few things you're dealing with, but you're being hit over and over and over with problems. Work or schooling, home life, friends, bills piling up, disease, or physical pain.

K. Slide16b So we have ... their contrast / our contrast, of *our failures versus Christ faithfulness*.

IV. Slide17 FAITHFUL IN THE FACE OF BETRAYAL (47-53)

A. Feel the weight of ... *Judas, one of the 12, who was leading them*.

B. Slide18 (47,48) The kiss - a signal, it's dark. Jesus says, *Judas, would you betray the son of man with a kiss? Really!* [Jesus uses the tenderness of his name Judas, from *Judah/praise*]

1. A kiss, something of *intimacy, love, respect, affection, friendship, devotion*. Judas basically says, *ha, I played you!* This is not only sticking the knife in, *but twisting*.

C. Slide19 (49-51) What would you do? Well, the disciples show us *what we would probably do*.

1. Slide20 Jesus jumps in. Stop this! Then heals. [Morgan, *His last act of divine surgery performed by the tender fingers of Jesus, made necessary by the blundering zeal of a disciple.*] (Jesus still doing the same today)
2. Thus showing us *how to live out, not My will, but Yours, be done*.

D. Slide21 (52,53) Now he turns to the mob. I've been operating *in the light*, you guys in the darkness. Which is consistent with who you are, *your plan, your desires, your hour ... the hour of darkness*.

1. For them, *Everything was going, according to their plan!* (under the cover of darkness, without the crowds, all is going perfectly).
 - a) Luke has been revealing Satan's plan. *Satan's plan of destruction*, even as he reveals *God's plan for salvation*. And it has become apparent that they both are driving towards the same object. Jesus' enemies are bending all of their efforts and ingenuity to bring Him to the cross and yet this is the very cup the Father has given Him to drink.
 - b) See what's happening here? God is using something we call *concurrency* (running together, 2 or more events/circumstances happening/existing at the same time).

c) The merging of *their hour of darkness*, and *Jesus' hour of why He came*, and providentially blending them together, showing that **God is in control**.

E. Keywords: sfdsd