

Community Group Question Guide

Matthew 26:30-46 – Garden To Garden - Abandonment, Sorrow, & Anguish

30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

31 Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’

32 But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.”

33 Peter answered him, “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.”

34 Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.”

35 Peter said to him, “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!” And all the disciples said the same.

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.”

37 And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

38 Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.”

39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”

40 And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour?

41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

42 Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”

43 And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

44 So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again.

45 Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

46 Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

- Jesus & his disciples have just had an intimate Passover meal together – how would they have likely felt when Jesus tells them they will abandon him?
- what do you think is Jesus’ tone & tenor, given how Matthew presents his words here?
- what do you make of Jesus’ follow-up statement in verse 32? How did, or how should, this impact the disciples?
- on what part of Jesus’ statement do the disciples focus? What is their response? What do you think about it? What do you think you would have said?
- Jesus & disciples now go to Gethsemane – look up what the name means.
- Can you find any information on the olive pressing process? What do you make of it relative to this scene?
- In verses 36-38, what are Jesus’ greatest needs in this time? Why? What do we tend to do in times of intense need / trouble? What does this tell us about Jesus?
- How many times does Jesus call for his disciples’ care & pray? What is at the core of Jesus’ anguish? How does this help us understand what he was going through? How does this relate to us?
- all humans are sinners... what does Jesus mean in the second part of verse 45?
- what do you make of verse 46? Who seems to be in control? What does this tell us about Jesus’ road to the cross?