

Community Group Question Guide

Matthew 26:47-75 – Three Trials

Read the passage together (& keep your Bibles open...)

- In the opening paragraph, how does Matthew refer to Judas? How does Judas address Jesus? Rabbi is a term of respect. If he is betraying Jesus, why call him Rabbi? What have you recently heard the other disciples call Jesus?
- In V51, a man with Jesus (Peter according to John's gospel), strikes w/ the sword. On what is he depending in this intense moment?
- Once Jesus stops the brief armed response, what do the disciples do?
- what is the verdict in this "trial" of the disciples? Look back at Matthew 20:22 and 26:33, 35. What did the disciples claim? What did they fail to do in the preceding Garden of Gethsemane scene? On what were they depending? Did that work? What is critical to remain faithful to Jesus?
- In verses 57-68 Jesus is on trial, or so it seems. But who is really on trial? On what are they depending for their purpose, life, & justification in trying Jesus?
- what do you think is missing in their lives that would cause them to be so violently opposed to God and the working out of his purposes?
- In verse 69-75, who is on "trial." On what is Peter depending here? On what could he, should he have been depending (see 26:41)? In the Garden scene, Jesus failed to do what three times? In this passage, what does Peter do three times?
- How does this instruct us in the midst of the intense, increasingly persecuting, world in which we live? What is at the very heart of living out life as a follower of Jesus? Idea: *do lots of that before you close!*