

Sermon Discussion Questions

March 27, 2022

Mark 14:27-52

1. The disciples present strength, courage, and loyalty at the beginning of the passage, yet within a matter of hours they are seen to be tired, weak, afraid, and eventually they run, deserting Jesus. How do you think this relates to our own life in Christ and our own discipleship? What do you make of the line in verse 38, “the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak”?
2. Jesus has confidently suggested many times in Mark’s narrative that eventually Jesus will die. At this point however, something turns and we see Jesus overwhelmed, troubled, and in both emotional and psychological distress. What do you think changed for Jesus? How do you see Jesus approach suffering and what do we learn from his posture in the midst of sorrow and pain?
3. In the most acute part of his suffering, Jesus prays an intimate prayer. “Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” What do you make of Jesus being able to hold this tension between incredible suffering and intimate prayer with the Father? In moments of confusion, pain, and brokenness, do you tend to come closer to God or feel further from God?
4. The garden of Gethsemane is portrayed as a place of intense suffering, sorrow, pain, distress, and a feeling of being overwhelmed. It is a place of loneliness, betrayal, and desertion. Have you ever found yourself in a place like this? What got you through that time?
5. What is the best thing you heard or an encouragement from this passage or message that you can take with you into the upcoming week? Is there a question you still have as a result of this passage and discussion that you want to carry with you this week?