

Message Notes

The Garden of Agony

The Gospel According to Matthew

Matthew 26:36-56

February 18, 2007

Message Outline

The Garden of Agony

The Gospel According to Matthew

Matthew 26:36-56

February 18, 2007

I. Our Lord's Suffering in the Garden

- A. His followers sleep.
- B. His friend subverts.
- C. His enemies seize.
- D. He sniffs.

II. Our Lord's Submissiveness in the Garden

- A. He believes the sovereign plan of God.
- B. He possesses the sovereign power of God.
- C. He yields to the sinful purposes of men.
- D. He obeys the sovereign will of God.
- E. He takes the sovereign punishment of God.
- F. He gains the promised people of God.

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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1. Read Matthew 26:36-56 again. What is Jesus' request? How many times does he ask? What is he asking? What's "the cup?"
2. Contrast Jesus and the disciples in this intense spiritual battle. What has Jesus told the disciples in 26:31-35? How did they respond verbally? How did they respond spiritually? Where does it lead them in 26:56? In contrast, what does Jesus do in the midst of the battle?
3. Compare and contrast the first Adam and Jesus, the Second Adam. Describe the garden, the tree and the command that each are given? What was the consequence of each of their actions?
4. Is Judas' kiss only an act of betrayal? What else does it represent? Why are the wounds of a close friend more hurtful than the wounds of a stranger?
5. Where do we see the submission of Jesus expressed and demonstrated in this passage?

Growth Group Application Questions

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Matthew 26:36-56

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1. What was new and most challenging in the text/message this week and why?
2. Why is it important to see Jesus as a Substitute for us before we see Him as an Example for us? When we observe Christ in the garden for us, how should we respond?
3. How is Jesus an example for us here? What does he show us?
4. How do we sleep through the spiritual battles of our lives? Why do we sleep through the spiritual battles of our lives?
5. What do we learn about prayer in this passage? Does God always answer it? Is prayer to bend the will of God or align our will to His?