

Week 5: Gethsemane and the Cost of Obedience

Theme: Surrendering to God's Will

Key Scripture: Matthew 26:36–46

Focus: Jesus' agony and obedience

Teaching: In the garden, Jesus wrestles with the cost of the cross but chooses obedience out of love.

Matthew 26:36–46 brings us into the quiet, heavy moment of Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane, where the cost of obedience becomes painfully clear. Jesus is honest about His anguish, expressing deep sorrow and distress, yet He brings that pain directly to the Father in prayer.

This passage reveals the full humanity of Jesus. He does not face the cross with indifference, but with trembling surrender. His prayer—"Yet not as I will, but as you will"—shows that obedience is not the absence of fear, but the choice to trust God in the midst of it.

The disciples' inability to stay awake contrasts sharply with Jesus' vigilance, reminding us of human weakness and the need for spiritual alertness. Still, Jesus responds not with anger, but with resolve and grace.

Gethsemane teaches us that surrender often happens in the struggle. It invites us to bring our fears honestly before God and to trust that His will, even when costly, is shaped by love and leads to redemption.

Discussion Questions:

- What does Jesus' prayer teach us about suffering?
- Have you ever struggled to say, "God's will be done"?
- How does Jesus' obedience strengthen your faith?

Scripture Engagement Questions:

1. What does Jesus' emotional struggle reveal about His humanity?
2. Why do you think Jesus brought His disciples with Him to pray?
3. How do we respond when God's will conflicts with our desires?
4. What can we learn from Jesus' honesty in prayer?
5. How does obedience sometimes involve suffering?
6. Where have you experienced tension between fear and faith?
7. What does it look like to trust God even when the outcome is painful?

Reflection/Prayer: Invite participants to surrender personal fears or struggles to God.
