

March 13, 2016

Preparation For Easter

Luke 22:39-53

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Vol. 6 Num. 11

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



Today we begin a 3 part series leading up to Easter. We will be looking at the last few chapters of Luke, including Jesus' prayer on the Mount of Olives in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter's denial, and the Resurrection. When Jesus prays in Gethsemane it is decision time for Him. Is He really going to go through with offering Himself as a sacrifice for all mankind? He knows the pain that He is about to face, and He does the only thing that can help, He goes to His Father in prayer. The disciples are going to face temptation and they have no idea how difficult it will be. As Jesus makes the most important decision in the history of creation, the disciples show the weakness of man by not even being able to stay awake as they pray. Fortunately for us, Jesus, both then and now, does all the heavy lifting.



Read Luke 22:39-53 (NET)

³⁹ Then Jesus went out and made his way, as he customarily did, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ When he came to the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” ⁴¹ He went away from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, ⁴² “Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Yet not my will but yours be done.” [⁴³ Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴ And in his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.] ⁴⁵ When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, exhausted from grief. ⁴⁶ So he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you will not fall into temptation!”

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd appeared, and the man named Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He walked up to Jesus to kiss him. ⁴⁸ But Jesus said to him, “Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?” ⁴⁹ When those who were around him saw what was about to happen, they said, “Lord, should we use our swords?” ⁵⁰ Then one of them struck the high priest’s slave, cutting off his right ear. ⁵¹ But Jesus said, “Enough of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him. ⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders who had come out to get him, “Have you come out with swords and clubs like you would against an outlaw? ⁵³ Day after day when I was with you in the temple courts, you did not arrest me. But this is your hour, and that of the power of darkness!”

EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passages.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.

4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

② EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. What do you think is the temptation that Jesus refers to in verse 40 and again in 46?

9. In verse 42, what is the cup that Jesus asks the Father to remove?

10. Why do you think Jesus would ask for a way out? Was there any other way to redeem man?

11. In verses 49-51, why did Jesus go with them without resisting?

12. What do we learn about Jesus through his willingness to be arrested and taken to the cross?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

13. With Jesus as an example, how should we approach difficulty in our life?

14. How does it impact your life to know that your creator willingly turned himself over for you?

15. Jesus became a sacrifice for us. What does it look like for us to be a living sacrifice for Him?
Romans 12:1 Therefore I exhort you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—alive, holy, and pleasing to God—which is your reasonable service.

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

SERMON NOTES