

HOME CHURCH SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

MATTHEW 26:47-56 • AUGUST 16, 2020

Last Days

The Betrayal and Arrest of the Son of God

WARM-UP

What impacts you most about your Lord's focus and behavior on this His darkest night?

1. What is especially revealing about the heart of Judas in the way he chose to betray Jesus after sharing close life and ministry with Him for 3 ½ years? Mt 26:48. What did Brad mean by warning us of the danger of having a "faith by proximity" like Judas?
2. How does the desertion of Jesus by the disciples differ from the betrayal of Judas? Where are you most likely to be tempted to hide from the cost of association with Jesus?
3. In each of these experiences of what was Peter spiritually unaware and why? Mt 16:21-23, Mt 26:31-35, Mt 26:37-41, Mt 26:51-54.
4. Recently where are you being tempted to trust in your own wisdom and strength, i.e. the flesh?
5. What were the means of grace practiced by Jesus that enabled Him to endure trials? Lk 5:16, Mt 4:4, Mt 26:37-39. Share as a group how you keep spiritual disciplines in your schedules.?

Self-sufficient Peter – His untrained skinny prayer legs fail him on race day.

Dependent praying Jesus - Ran with perseverance the race marked out for Him, "endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

HEBREWS 12:2

Why were the legions of angels not released to rescue Jesus in His greatest hour of suffering and need? V 53,54. Earlier that night, why did the angel help Him if not for deliverance? Lk 22:43

CONCLUDING CHALLENGE

From the Q and A with Peter what application can you practice this week?

Q AND A WITH PETER THE APOSTLE

Q. Peter, how did you see Jesus behave under this extreme stress and suffering?

A. "When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. 1 Pet 2:23a

Q. Wow, how did He do that, as you know by experience retaliation is so natural?

A. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly." 1 Pet 2:23b

Q. Isn't this whole thing of facing suffering like Jesus beyond our pay grade?

A. No, "To this you were called because Christ suffered for you, leaving an example, that you should follow in his steps" 1 Pet 2:21