



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Mark Sermon Series
Supports Session 11: Willing
Sermon Title: "Fiery Ordeals" (Mark 14:43-46; 1 Peter 4:12-16,19)

Connection to Session 11

We face numerous decisions each day. At times, we will have to decide, "Will I submit to God's plans and purposes, or will I choose my own way?" Jesus, too, faced this question. He chose God's plan of redemption for His people.

Introduction/Opening

Jesus experienced a time of intense prayer at Gethsemane and willingly submitted to God's plan (Mark 14:32-42). We, too, will face decisions where we can submit to God's ways and plans, or to choose our own way. When we submit to His purposes, we discover the sufficiency of God's strength in that moment and experience the joy of following Christ.

Outline

1. Jesus's Suffering (Mark 14:43-46)

- a. Gethsemane is the olive grove located across the Kidron Valley on the western slope of the Mount of Olives. Jesus and His disciples often gathered there as a meeting place.
- b. Judas knew he would find Jesus at Gethsemane. He led the chief priests, scribes, and elders to Gethsemane, and then identified Jesus with a kiss. This act allowed the soldiers to know whom to arrest.
- c. Jesus was prepared. Previous to His triumphal entry to Jerusalem, Jesus taught His disciples that He would die at the hand of the religious leaders and rise from the dead (8:31-33). Instead of being an uncertain time in the future, the hour had come.

2. Our Suffering (1 Peter 4:12-16).

- a. Peter informed his readers that they, like Jesus, would endure suffering. This is a prominent theme in his letter. (See 1 Peter 1:6-7, 2:19-25, and 4:1-5). Peter exhorted them, “don’t be surprised” as if “something unusual” (v. 12) was happening.
- b. Many expect that a profession of faith in Jesus will produce a life of complete peace and tranquility.
- c. Peter reveals that suffering is common to the disciples of Jesus. We are simply sharing the suffering or rejection that came to Jesus from an evil world.
- d. Paul the apostle used his suffering to prove the authenticity of his apostleship. Suffering was not an academic concept or a theory to Paul. Rather, he bore on his body “the marks of Jesus” (Gal. 6:17). Paul had scars from injuries received through persecution.
- e. Peter called believers to accept suffering as an authentication of their discipleship (1 Peter 4:14).
- f. Peter warns his fellow believers to be careful not to suffer as a murderer, thief, evildoer, or meddler (v. 15.) These miserable outcomes, and their punishments, are not the sufferings of Jesus. They are simply the consequences of our bad deeds.

3. For God’s Glory (1 Peter 4:19)

- a. Jesus glorified God through His obedience. He went to the cross, defeating sin and death. He willingly submitted to God’s plan of redemption for His people. His blood, of eternal value, has been sufficient to secure the salvation of those who trust in Him for salvation. Jesus also experienced the glory of His resurrection.
- b. We glorify God when we stand firm, steadfastly trusting in God. Though we face trials, temptations, and persecution, we do not face these experiences alone. Peter encouraged his readers and Christians today. “So then, let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator while doing what is good” (1 Peter 4:19).
- c. It is our joy to anticipate an eternity spent with God. We will have the privilege of worshipping and glorifying His Name without end.

Conclusion

Jesus endured the agony of Gethsemane, experienced a brutal crucifixion, and emerged triumphant in His resurrection. We can anticipate opposition and persecution for our faith and

should be prepared for those realities. Ultimately, we will receive what God has promised His people. We will spend eternity in God's presence.

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