

Life Group Notes
Sunday 24 February 2019

Speaker: Scott Taylor

Title: Gethsemane: Mountain of Betrayal

Passage: Matthew 26:36-50

Our latest instalment of 'On this Mountain' saw us in the Garden of Gethsemane: The Mountain of Betrayal.

It's in the garden that we can identify with Jesus – here we see Jesus ask the question “if it be possible let this cup pass from me.” It's the question we would ask when faced with a situation that we don't want to face. Please take it away.

As humans we will always betray God - The mountains we have looked at so far have betrayal all around them. In the Garden there is betrayal. Peter, James and John sleep when Jesus has asked them keep watch. He is betrayed by them, but the worst is still to come. Judas doesn't ascend the mountain to meet with God, he ascends the mountain to betray God. He does it with a public sign of affection, a kiss.

In that moment - So man will always betray God, and Jesus is asking the question, in his humanity, if it is possible to have the cup pass from him. What is it about this cup that is so bad that it brings Jesus to this point, to this moment? To understand the cup, we need to remember that God is loving, so he sets us boundaries to live in; that God is just, so when we step across the boundary there will be punishment; and in all this God is wrath. He has anger which is set against sin, because it harms us, our relationship with Him and other people and it doesn't bring Him glory. Jesus stares into a metaphoric cup in which he sees every betrayal against God, every sin, every rebellion and every just punishment for that. He sees separation from his Father. It is this that drives him to ask if it is possible let this cup pass from me. But in that moment – Jesus follows the question with a statement. YOUR WILL BE DONE.

Look to Jesus - Jesus doesn't betray the plan, he goes through with it. He takes the just punishment for our betrayal upon himself at the cross. Betrayed by everyone, he hangs on a cross not as a victim but as a King, conquering sin, death and the devil. He sets us free from the bondage of betrayal, so we no longer have to live as enemies of God but as sons and daughters. Sin no longer has mastery over us.

Humans will always betray god, in those moments, look to him.

Suggested Questions:

- 1) What did you hear for the first time or afresh on Sunday?
- 2) What does this story reveal to us about God and who he is?
- 3) What would your Judas kiss look like?
- 4) How does Jesus going though with the plan help us in our everyday lives?