

That The World May Know – The Death and Resurrection of the Messiah - Session 7: The Weight of the World

Jesus Prayed

Read the following passages of scripture:

Matthew 26:39 – 54

Mark 14:35 – 39

Luke 22:42

1. What was Jesus asking in his prayer?
2. What does this prayer reveal about Jesus' relationship with God the Father?
3. What do these verses reveal about God's love for us?
4. Why is it important for us to trust God during difficult times?
5. Which temptations might Jesus have faced during this time?

The Disciples' Response

Read the following passages of scripture:

Matthew 26:36 - 46

Mark 14:37 - 42

Luke 22:45 - 46

1. What did Jesus want the disciples to do? Why do you think He asked that of them?
2. Why do you think the disciples acted so differently from Jesus?
3. Which temptation did the disciples face? How could they have resisted it?
4. Describe a time when your friends or family members did not support you during a crucial time. How did you feel?
5. In what ways can you relate to Jesus' loneliness as He faced His anguish alone?

Christians Are to Bear Fruit

In the Bible, God's relationship to His people is represented by the olive tree, and a Christian's fruitfulness is likened to a tree that bears fruit.

1. What images are used to describe God's followers?
Psalm 52:8
Psalm 128:3
Hosea 14:5 – 6
2. To what was the unfaithful nation of Israel compared?
Jeremiah 11:16
3. What are the consequences of not bearing good fruit?
Matthew 3:10 – 12
Matthew 7:16 – 20
4. What did God, through Isaiah's prophecy promise to do with the stump of unfaithful Israel?
Isaiah 11:1 – 3
Jeremiah 23:5 – 6
Jeremiah 33:15 – 16

Jesus' Blood Shed For Us

1. What happened to Jesus in Gethsemane as the weight of what He would soon face pressed down on Him?
Luke 22:40 – 45
2. What do the following verses reveal about the impact of Jesus' shed blood on us today?
Ephesians 1:7
Colossians 1:19 – 20
Hebrews 13:12
1 John 1:7 – 10
Revelation 1:4 – 6

Caring for the "Little Ones"

Jesus used the term "Little Ones" to describe unimportant people—those for whom society had little respect.

Matthew 18:1 – 6

Mark 9:33 – 42

1. Why did Jesus tell the disciples to stop thinking of themselves as important?
2. What does "becoming like little children" mean?
3. Why is humility a less common trait in people today?
4. What did Jesus say would happen to someone who causes a "little one"—someone who seems to be unimportant in society—to stumble in his or her faith?
5. Jesus felt deeply for the unimportant, for the "little ones" who had no status. Why is it so easy to overlook people in our church... school... neighborhood... who have no status in our world's eyes?
6. Which "little ones" might we tend to overlook today?

Scripture References

Exodus 29	Matthew 7
1 Kings 5	Matthew 11
1 Kings 17	Matthew 18
Psalms 52	Matthew 26
Psalms 128	Mark 9
Ecclesiastes 9	Mark 14
Isaiah 11	Luke 22
Isaiah 21	1 John 1
Isaiah 53	Ephesians 1
Jeremiah 11	Colossians 1
Jeremiah 23	Hebrews 13
Jeremiah 33	James 5
Hosea 14	1 Peter 2
Matthew 3	Revelation 1

Think About It

How you respond to what Jesus has done for you has serious consequences. If you know what Jesus has done for you and understand His words, yet do not respond positively to Him and what He has done for you, you will be judged accordingly.

Jesus cursed the people in His hometown of Capernaum, saying, "If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, Sodom would have remained to this day. But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the Day of Judgment than for you." They saw Jesus' love in action and knew what to do yet did not respond positively to Him and chose to do evil.

But if ***you*** submit completely to Jesus and allow God to live through you, you will be spiritually fruitful and derive your life from Him.

What kind of fruit will you produce this week? Will you yield yourself to Jesus daily, or will you be unresponsive to His will for your life?