

**The Dark Night**  
**Matthew 26:36-46**  
**June 2, 2024**

**Matthew 26:36–46 ESV**

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

*“Be of good cheer, Master Ridley, and play the man. We shall this day, by God’s grace, light such a candle in England as I trust shall never be put out.”*

**Hebrews 4:14-16 ESV**

**14** Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. **15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. **16** Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Hebrews 5:7–8 ESV**

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.

*“Christ was going to be cast into a dreadful furnace of wrath, and it was not proper that he should plunge himself into it blindfolded, as not knowing how dreadful the furnace was. Therefore, God brought him and set him at the mouth of the furnace, that he might look in and stand and view its fierce and raging flames, might see where he was going, and might voluntarily enter into it...” “If Christ had not fully known before he took it and drank it, it would not have properly been his own action as a human being,” and get this, “but when he took that cup then, knowing what was in it, so was his love to us infinitely the more wonderful and so was his obedience to God infinitely the more perfect.” -Johnathan Edwards*

Jesus validates our suffering

The Lord’s Prayer

## **2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV**

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## **Luke 22:46 ESV**

and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

Failure is never final or fatal.

## **Grow Group Questions**

1. What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
2. What is the importance of prayer during good and troubling times?
3. What does this passage teach us about the reality of our sin and the price Jesus paid for our salvation? What does this passage teach us about Jesus' love for us?
4. How does Jesus' prayer in this passage model the "Lord's Prayer" (Mt. 6:9-13)?
5. How is Jesus' full humanity on display in Gethsemane? What surprises you about this picture of Jesus? How might this picture serve as an encouragement to you when you face suffering? (See Hebrews 4)
6. Why is Jesus' perfect obedience when no one is watching encouraging? What does this teach us about Jesus?
7. This might be for private reflection, but is there anything you are doing in the dark that you would be ashamed of if it were brought to light? If so confess that to God and ask for help now.
8. Looking at Luke's account of this passage, why does Jesus tell his disciples again to pray they would not enter into temptation? What does this instruction teach us about God's desire for us even in failure?
9. How might your grow group encourage one another to live out this passage this next week?