

Today:
March 1, 2015

Scripture Focus: Mark 14:32-52

³² They went to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and Jesus said, “Sit here while I go and pray.” ³³ He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he became deeply troubled and distressed. ³⁴ He told them, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” ³⁵ He went on a little farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by. ³⁶ “Abba, Father,” he cried out, “everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.” ³⁷ Then he returned and found the disciples asleep. He said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Couldn’t you watch with me even one hour? ³⁸ Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak.” ³⁹ Then Jesus left them again and prayed the same prayer as before. ⁴⁰ When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn’t keep their eyes open. And they didn’t know what to say. ⁴¹ When he returned to them the third time, he said, “Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But no—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Up, let’s be going. Look, my betrayer is here!”

⁴³ And immediately, even as Jesus said this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders. ⁴⁴ The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal: “You will know which one to arrest when I greet him with a kiss. Then you can take him away under guard.” ⁴⁵ As soon as they arrived, Judas walked up to Jesus. “Rabbi!” he exclaimed, and gave him the kiss. ⁴⁶ Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him. ⁴⁷ But one of the men with Jesus pulled out his sword and struck the high priest’s slave, slashing off his ear. ⁴⁸ Jesus asked them, “Am I some dangerous revolutionary, that you come with swords and clubs to arrest me? ⁴⁹ Why didn’t you arrest me in the Temple? I was there among you teaching every day. But these things are happening to fulfill what the Scriptures say about me.” ⁵⁰ Then all his disciples deserted him and ran away.

(Mark 14:32-50, New Living Translation)

Notes from Worship:

How did God catch your attention? To what is God calling you this week?

Questions for Discussion:

- How do you relate to Jesus’ agonizing prayer of relinquishment? Does it comfort you that Jesus had a human will separate from God’s divine will?
- Is it hard for you to stay awake & pray, even when times call for prayer?
- How do you think you would have responded as one of Jesus’ disciples here?

This Week: **March 2-7**

Scripture Readings:

Monday 3/2	Tuesday 3/3	Wednesday 3/4	Thursday 3/5	Friday 3/6	Saturday 3/7
Amos 1-5	Amos 6-9	Hosea 1-5	Hosea 6-9	Hosea 10-14	Isaiah 1-4

Questions for Reflection:

These questions are meant to help get you thinking about the readings for each day. Feel free to also use this space to jot down other questions and insights gleaned from your reading.

Monday

Amos is a fiery prophet who speaks many words of judgment on Israel's neighbors as well as on Israel. Do you feel convicted by any of these words of judgment? What is Amos' central call to the people in these chapters?

Tuesday

Which of the images in these chapters catches your attention the most? Why? How comforting are the words in Amos 9:11-5? Why?

Wednesday

God asks Hosea to marry a promiscuous woman. How is this symbolic of God's relationship with the people of Israel?

Thursday

What in these chapters is most striking to you? Why?

Friday

Hosea 11:1-11 communicates God's deep love for Israel. What might this passage mean for our world today?

Saturday

How does Isaiah describe the Day of the Lord? (Isaiah 2:6-22) Why is this important? What is the "Branch of the Lord"? (Isaiah 4:2-6) Why is it significant?

Taking Scripture to Heart:

As we continue focusing on the life and teachings of Jesus, our memory text is **Matthew 5:43-48**. Let these verses dwell within you, to help you focus on Jesus Christ, the center of our faith.

Next Sunday: March 8, 2015

Theme: Jesus before the Sanhedrin, Peter disowns Jesus

Scripture Focus: *Mark 14:53 – 15:1*