

Recap of 5/19/24 message by Pastor Chris (Mark 14:32-42):

- *Faithfulness in discipleship involves submission to the Father's will and a prayerful dependence on the Holy Spirit. We see this in Jesus' prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, which means "oil press." Jesus is pressed with the reality that He is about to experience something He's never experienced before, namely sin, the pouring out of God's wrath upon Him, and the ensuing interruption of perfect relationship with the Father. He is so pressed in this moment, in such anguish, that he sweats blood (hematohidrosis) and is in need of divine strengthening from an angel (Luke 22:43-44). Yet in all this, Jesus' human will, while distinct from the Father's will, was never in opposition to it. Jesus shows faithfulness in this moment by submitting to the Father's will and being prayerfully dependent on divine strengthening.*
- *The disciples in contrast are not pressed, are not in tune with the gravity of this moment, and are not faithful to remain in prayer, but instead fall into their flesh and fall asleep. Three times Jesus prays, three times they sleep, and soon three times Peter will deny Jesus. We must realize that we too are susceptible to faithlessness and responding in our flesh, that is in our own strength and understanding.*
- *When we fail to recognize what God is doing in our lives and where we fit in the redemptive story of God, we slide toward reactionary, near-sighted prayers. Often, we pray for success or things of prosperity, and while it is not wrong to desire to prosper, we would do well to remember Oswald Chambers' teaching: "The test of the life of a saint is not success, but faithfulness in human life as it actually is."*