

Imperfect #7
Garden of Sorrow

Word

Scripture Reference

Luke 22:39–53

Discussion Questions

1. Was there a time in your life when you consented to do something that you didn't look forward to doing? How did you manage to go through with it?
2. As a believer, reaching out to a lost world means that you need to tell people to follow God's perfect plan for their lives. But if you have a complaining attitude towards submission to God's will, you may not be an effective witness. The will of God is clearly revealed in the Word of God, but maybe you have not really thought through the realities of following God's will and how it might affect the development of your entire character. Read Luke 22:39-53. Describe what happened after Jesus instituted the Lord's supper and revealed that one of His disciples was going to betray Him. How do you think the disciples were feeling at this point?
3. In His prayer to God the Father at Gethsemane, Jesus said, "Not My will but Yours be done," even knowing what would happen to Him. What did Jesus mean when He implored God the Father to "take this cup from Me?" (v. 42) What does Jesus' prayer tell you about His character and His relationship with the Father?
4. Submission to God's will is a willingness to do what He desires You to do, regardless of what it is. Doing this will bring you joy and satisfaction, but with it also come painful realities. First is that you will experience suffering and sorrow (v. 44). How did this verse describe Jesus' physical and emotional condition while He was praying? Discuss why He was in such a state. Describe the agony and suffering that Jesus had to endure. Do you know for whom He shed His blood? How do you react to painful and crushing events in your life? Do you still choose to follow God's will even if it comes with suffering and sorrow?

5. Secondly, when you follow God's will, you will experience abandonment and isolation (v. 45-46). What were Jesus' disciples doing while He was praying? How do you think they felt knowing that their leader was about to die and leave them? What must Jesus have felt when He saw that none of His disciples stayed up with Him to pray during His greatest moment of need? Share about an experience when you felt abandoned and isolated in your journey with the Lord. What kept you going?
6. Thirdly, when you follow God's will, you will experience injustice and unfairness (v. 47-51). Why did Judas kiss Jesus? Share why Judas's actions were hypocritical and dishonest (v. 47-48). How did Peter react to this incident? Jesus had every right not to heal the man whom Peter hurt, but what did Jesus do for this man? One of the most difficult things to understand in being a follower of Christ is that obedience and submission have nothing to do with fairness. Whether something is fair or not does not determine your submission to God's will. In what way do you think that following God's will may not be fair? Is this something that you struggle with? What can you possibly do about it?
7. Lastly, when you follow God's will, you will experience earthly loss (v. 52-53). What did Jesus say to the religious leader who came to capture Him? What did Jesus mean when He said, "But this is your hour, and the power of darkness." Discuss how, in allowing His enemies to win, Jesus honored the will of God. Why would it be so hard to follow God's will if you are not willing to take a loss?

Walk

In following His Father's will, Jesus experienced suffering, sorrow, abandonment, isolation, injustice, unfairness, and loss. But His submission to the will of the Father was all worth it because it bought you your salvation. What can you learn from Jesus' demonstration of obedience to His Father's will? Are you struggling to trust and follow the will of God for your life? Think about what God's will entails and pray for a submissive heart to obey.

Worship & Prayer

Father, thank You for Your Son whose humble submission to Your will despite the painful experiences that came with it ensured that I can be called Your child. You gave me new life, one where following You means unlimited grace, unspeakable joy, incomprehensible peace, but also expected suffering and pain. You never promised me a pain-free life; what You promised is that in this world I will experience pain, loss, injustice; but You also promised it is temporary. Thank You for giving me hope through Your Son. And so I pray for strength. I ask for comfort. I ask that if possible, spare me from those things. But above all I ask that not my will, but Yours be done. In Jesus' name. Amen.