



Seven Days | The Week That Changed Everything

Part 3: When Jesus Asks for the Opposite



CONVERSATION GUIDE



SMALL GROUPS

As we move forward through this decisive week, we arrive at one of the deepest moments before the cross: Gethsemane. In **Matthew 26:36-39**, we see Jesus in a place whose name means “oil press,” where He was pressed emotionally and spiritually before fully surrendering Himself to the Father’s purpose. Here we see a Savior who feels the weight of pain and of what is about to come, honestly expressing His anguish before God and allowing us to see the intensity of that moment leading up to the sacrifice.

His prayer was not passive resignation, but a real struggle in which, even in agony, He chose the Father’s will over His own desire to avoid suffering. This moment reveals that deep obedience does not always happen without conflict, but it can still be lived out with trust and surrender. In Gethsemane, we see that surrendering to God does not mean the absence of struggle, but choosing to remain faithful even when the path is difficult and we do not fully understand everything He is doing.

Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, “Sit here while I go over there to pray.” He took Peter and Zebedee’s two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. He told them, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”

Matthew 26:36-39 (NLT)



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. As we read **Matthew 26:36-39 (NLT)**, we see that Jesus was deeply troubled and distressed. What does this teach you about His humanity, and about how you can come to Him in your own difficult moments?
2. Jesus asked for the cup to pass from Him, but ultimately surrendered to the Father's will. In what area of your life do you feel today that God is asking something different from what you would naturally want?
3. **Luke 9:23 (NLT)** says: *"If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me."* What is hardest for you to surrender so that God's will becomes the priority in your daily life?

**Every follower of Jesus eventually faces their own Gethsemane:
The moment when our will collides with God's will.**



MAKE IT PRACTICAL

What do we do when Jesus' will collides with ours?:

1. **Be honest.** Don't filter your prayers. If you are sad, confused, or tired, express it sincerely before God. You can even write a personal prayer where you put into words what is weighing on you today.
2. **Invite others.** Don't face your struggles alone. Find someone you trust and share a specific burden you are carrying. Allow someone to pray with you and walk with you spiritually.
3. **Choose God.** Identify one specific decision where you know your will is resisting God's, and take a step of obedience even if you still do not have all the answers.



PRAYER

"Father, thank You for the example of Jesus in Gethsemane. Thank You because in the middle of His anguish, He chose to trust You completely. Forgive us for the times we have placed our desires above Your will. Today we bring You our struggles, resistance, and questions. Give us strength to say, 'Not my will, but Yours be done,' even when the road is difficult, and help us trust Your character when we do not understand Your process. In Jesus' name, amen"



TIPS

- Don't ignore your inner struggles; **bring them honestly before God.**
- If you feel under pressure, **remember that God also shapes your character through those processes.**
- Many times, today's surrender **prepares the strength you will need tomorrow.**



NEXT STEPS EXPRESS

Thursday, March 26. Register here:

<https://bridgecitymd.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3452310>

