



Leaders: choose some, but not all of the following questions. Email me with any questions. Mark.

Study 2 - Luke 22:39-53 Mount of Olives

You may like to begin by reading the passage again or at least making sure everyone has it open.

1. Is there anything that stood out for you from the passage or the message? New insights?
2. Of what is Jesus so afraid? What has caused Jesus so much emotional anguish? (Mike described him as devastated and broken in his prayers!)
3. We see the content of his prayer in v42. What is remarkable about this prayer?

The cup

Mike pointed out that throughout the Old Testament, God promises a day will come when he will put right all that is wrong with the world. It is the Day of the Lord – the Day of God’s judgement.

4. Mike said that judgement is a necessary part of love. How is this the case? (If you have children – think about how/why your love resulted in judgement.)
5. Drinking the cup of God’s wrath is an image of God’s anger against evil – and God bringing disaster on evil itself. It is this cup Jesus prays will be taken from him. Why is this cup before Jesus at all - as one who was completely innocent and sinless?
6. Read Isaiah 53:3-6 and see a commentary on the reality of Jesus carrying God’s wrath. How do you react to Jesus’ willingness to do this for you?

The request

Jesus’ request is that the cup be taken from him. The reality is that drinking the cup for us will involve the brutality of the cross, with the totality of God’s wrath at humanity’s rebellion bearing down on him. It’s no surprise Jesus asks for a way out! If there is any other way, let’s do it that way!

7. Why couldn’t we just try to be better people – nice people; and pray more and go on pilgrimages and love one another more – why wouldn’t these be effective ways of saving us?

Mike pointed out that there was no other way we could be restored to relationship with God - taken from death to life and washed of our sins and adopted as children except the only beloved Son of God dying on the cross for us. There was, no, other, way!

8. Do you see why Christians therefore, make exclusive claims about Jesus? (See John 14:6).

Fear for us

9. What is the nature of Jesus’ fear for us? – as seen in his fear for his disciples that night? (You may like to play again that third section of Mike’s talk.)
10. As we walk towards Easter, Mike wants us to remember, that we walk on the only path that has hope. What are the sorts of things that take us away from or distract us from that path?
11. How can we help each other stay on this only path that brings hope and life?

Share with the group something you’ll take away from the message and/or the discussion. Pray with one another, giving thanks for Jesus’ willingness to drink the cup for us and praying we’ll never stray from this path of hope.