

We Have Failed

Read: Matthew 26:57-75

Main idea: Jesus, God's only Son and Messiah was faithful to His Father's will to the point of death on the cross even in the face of rejection and betrayal by those He came to save.

Key Verses: "And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly." **(26:75 ESV)**

Key Principles:

- The ultimate purpose of the trials that Jesus went through was to show the depravity of His accusers and to lead Him to death on the cross.
- The wickedness of man is on display in different people at different times as they respond to the Son of God.
- There is irony in the high priest sitting in judgment over the one that will one day judge all of the living and the dead according to the way they respond to Him.
- The most disheartening display of human sinfulness is the fact that none of the disciples of Jesus proved to be faithful during His darkest hour.
- The characters of this story embody the same sin and rebellion that exists in our hearts, and we need the grace of God just like they did.

Discussion:

1. What immediately comes to mind when you think about Lent, Passion Week, or Easter? What are your typical routines or traditions?
2. What stuck out to you when you read Matthew 26:57-75? Did these verses raise any questions about your own life as you read them?
3. How was Jesus' trial with the Sanhedrin unjust? How is the way that Jesus is treated by the modern world unjust as well?
4. With which of the characters in the passage do you most identify? In what ways do you identify with them? How should you respond to that reality?
5. How do these two passages help us better understand the gospel? How has this entire series shaped your perception or understanding of Jesus' death on the cross?

Prayer:

- Read Psalm 110:1 together. Focus on reality of God's grand redemptive narrative.
- Pray:
 - o That God would remind you that you are sinful and desperately need His grace.
 - o In the face of your own failure, you are reminded of the victory you have in Jesus.
 - o That God would give you a passion to reach the lost with the gospel of Jesus.

We Have Failed
Matthew 26:57-75

- I. **We are an unjust people. 26:57-68**
 - 1. Our timing is unjust. 26:57-58
 - 2. Our testimony is unjust. 26:59-64
 - 3. Our judgment is unjust. 26:65-68

- II. **We are an unfaithful people. 26:69-75**
 - 1. Ignorance is not an excuse. 26:69-70
 - 2. Location is not an excuse. 26:71-72
 - 3. Fear is not an excuse. 26:73-75

NEXT WEEK:
Jesus Has Overcome
Matthew 27:32-28:10