

MAIN POINT

Jesus submitted to God's will at great cost to Himself and calls us to do the same.

INTRODUCTION

What is the most difficult decision you have ever had to make? What priorities or factors did you consider most heavily?

Looking back, would you have walked through the decision any differently or focused on other truths or ultimate goals more? How can you apply that understanding to future decisions?

Typically, the decisions with the most enduring outcomes and far-reaching effects require the greatest amounts of effort and time. We weigh alternatives and options, carefully examining the implications of the choices we make. For followers of Jesus, the underlying question of every decision is in determining the will of God. But even if we know the will of God in a given situation, we will almost certainly be tempted to choose a more comfortable, self-serving alternative. Thankfully, in contrast, Jesus never strayed from God's will, despite the great temptation to do so. Above all, He was committed to carrying out the will of God—to the point of His own death—acting on His love for us and His unwavering obedience to the Father.

DISCUSSION

> **READ MATTHEW 26:36-46.**

What "cup" was Jesus referring to in verse 39? (See Jeremiah 25:15-17.) What insight does this shed on the Lord's Supper, which Jesus and His disciples had just left?

How does this garden scene compare with the first garden scene in the Bible—the Garden of Eden? What temptations were presented in both?

Do you think it was the physical pain Jesus dreaded most, or something else? How did His death compare with even the most gruesome stories we hear of torture and suffering today?

Why do you think Matthew included the detail that Jesus fell facedown to pray? What does that indicate about the nature of prayer and the inward sentiment of Jesus that night?

Why do you think Jesus asked the disciples to go with Him? What might Jesus have wanted them to see and learn as a result? What did it reveal about the power of His presence?

The disciples continually failed to stay awake. If they had understood the magnitude of what was about to happen, might they have acted differently?

How does understanding that the cross is the will of God impact the way we view the crucifixion? How does it impact the way we view Jesus's prayer in the garden?

APPLICATION

Where is God calling you to submit to His will today? How will you respond?