

Session 6: Gethsemane – The Final Decision



Putting Yourself in the Picture

This painting by James Tissot shows Jesus in the throes of struggling with the certainty of his death. He needs assurance he can finish his mission. However, his closest followers seem too weary to help him.

Read Mark 14:32-42. In these verses Jesus expresses his doubts about the objective of his task.

- Jesus asks Peter, James and John for support. How can we support those with spiritual challenges?
- Jesus prays for release. How does this sustain his spiritual strength? From what trials do we seek release?
- Jesus warns Peter of the tendency for human weakness. What is the best remedy during times of trial?

Read Mark 14:43-51 and John 18:1-11. John's account of the arrest differs significantly from that of Mark

- Compare Jesus emotional state in the two passages. In which does he appear more forceful? Why?
- How do the disciples react to Jesus arrest in Mark? How does that compare to Peter's action in John?
- Why do you think it is difficult for the disciples to support Jesus? What similar challenge do we face today?