

THE BETRAYED PRIEST

+ SESSION OUTLINE

1. The Son of Man predicts abandonment (Matt. 26:31-35).
2. The Son of Man trusts in God's plan (Matt. 26:36-46).
3. The Son of Man exercises restraint (Matt. 26:47-56).

Background Passage: Matthew 26

+ WHAT WILL MY GROUP LEARN?

Even as Jesus was betrayed and arrested, He did not waver in His obedience to the Father and continued to trust in His plan to provide salvation.

+ HOW WILL MY GROUP SEE CHRIST?

In the garden of Eden, Adam failed to resist the serpent and instead chose to follow His way over God's. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus, the last Adam, submitted to His Father's plan. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the penalty for sin that we all deserve as those born in the likeness of Adam.

+ HOW SHOULD MY GROUP RESPOND?

Because we have been saved through the sacrifice of Jesus, we embrace suffering as we follow in the footsteps of our Savior, whose mission was to seek and save the lost.

GROUP TIME

Group content found in the Daily Discipleship Guide is included in the shaded areas throughout the session.



SCRIPTURE HANDOUT

Scan this QR code for a reproducible handout of this session's Scripture passages.

INTRODUCTION

ASK: As participants arrive, ask: **When have you said you would never do something but then you did?** (wait for a volunteer to respond first; only share your response as a conclusion to the discussion)

TRANSITION: Jesus's remarkable life began its descent into His remarkable death. As Jesus faced what He knew would be immeasurably great suffering and pain, He did so knowing His suffering was the fulfillment of God's grand plan to save His people. That suffering and pain started not in His arrest and crucifixion but in the failures of His disciples to stay faithful, though they had said they would. Still, Jesus gave Himself as the substitute for His people, giving His perfect life of obedience to God on behalf of His people to save them from their sins. He was the perfect Priest who also became the perfect sacrifice.

SUMMARIZE: Help your group understand the **setting** for this session.

- As Jesus and His disciples left the upper room, Jesus embarked on the final leg of His journey to the cross. He entered the garden of Gethsemane, knowing all His disciples would fail to stand and watch and pray. He knew Peter would deny Him three times. He was utterly alone, but He never wavered. In the garden, Jesus did what Adam could not do. He stood against the devil and bowed His will to the Father's. By doing so, He brought many sons to glory.



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POINT 1

THE SON OF MAN PREDICTS ABANDONMENT (MATT. 26:31-35).

READ: Invite a volunteer to read aloud **Matthew 26:31-35** from his or her Bible.

31 Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ **32** But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.”

33 Peter answered him, “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” **34** Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” **35** Peter said to him, “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!” And all the disciples said the same.

EXPLAIN: With the content below, explain from **verse 31-32** that Jesus predicted His disciples would abandon Him (DDG p. 82).

Jesus knew His friends would desert Him, but He continued with His plan of salvation anyway.

- Jesus’s suffering ran the gamut of human experiences. He truly was the man of sorrows who became like us in every way, except without sin (Heb. 4:15). Whatever we suffer, physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual, we have a God who understands the pain, and He can help us when we are there.
- If you know the hurt of abandonment, Jesus does too. The night of His arrest, Jesus knew all His disciples would fail Him. Quoting Zechariah 13:7, He told them they would fall away (Matt. 26:31), though they didn’t believe Him. There must have been some comfort in knowing that what was about to happen was the fulfillment of Scripture. It was the path laid out for Him, the path He chose, and the path He suffered for the joy set before Him (Heb. 12:1). Though the pain was acute, God was still in control, and the plan was still on track.
- Jesus knew His death was imminent, and though His disciples still did not grasp it, Jesus pointed again beyond the grave. He mentioned His resurrection in verse 32: “After I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” In the hours ahead, the disciples would surely feel the guilt and shame of abandoning Jesus, but He left them with something to hold them up in the dark hours. He would see them again. They would be together in Galilee. The risen Christ would be there waiting for them.

DISCUSS: Pass out copies of **PACK ITEM 10: JESUS’S SUFFERING**, highlighting different ways Jesus suffered but was still faithful. Then discuss (DDG pp. 81,82):

From Day 5 in the DDG: **What can you do to show your thankfulness, knowing Jesus was willing to face death to bring about salvation?** (follow Jesus’s example; praise Him; sacrifice something for His mission)



VOICES from THE CHURCH

“You may have spent a lifetime deserting him or betraying him or denying him. But if you will come to him he says to you this morning, ‘I will be your sovereign, merciful Savior and Lord. I will be everything you need.’”¹

–John Piper

CHALLENGE: In **verses 33-35**, Peter and the disciples denied that they would deny Jesus, as if they could correct what Jesus said. Challenge your group to think about the following (DDG p. 82):

Jesus's disciples failed, but they still remained Jesus's disciples whom He loved.

- The ever bold and self-assured Peter tried to refute Jesus by claiming he would never abandon Jesus. Peter's self-assurance was admirable here; no doubt he sincerely meant it. But Peter said more than he could back up. He talked the talk without the power to walk the walk. Jesus knew that, and He told him so: "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times" (v. 34).
- Peter's words revealed his dismay: "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" (v. 35), still adamant about his perceived faithfulness. And Matthew tells us in his Gospel that all the disciples said the same thing. No one there with Jesus believed they would abandon Him in His hour of need. Moments later, however, not one of them could stay awake long enough to pray. The spirit may be willing, but the flesh is weak.
- Though we see Jesus's disciples all falling away, we can contrast that with Jesus's actions. He intended to remain true to His friends and could not imagine leaving them nor forsaking them. So when the time came, unlike the disciples, Jesus did stay true. He faced the cross. He laid His life down as the substitutionary sacrifice to save His people from their sins. Jesus's friends all abandoned Him, but Jesus will never abandon His friends.
- *Application:* There is extreme foolishness in the self-confident heart of human beings. We are not as strong as we believe we are, and we will fail in many ways. But Jesus is still there when we fail. He remains faithful when we are not. He faced the cross when others ran for the hills. Jesus's friends may not have stood by Him in His hour of need, but Jesus will never fail to stand by you in yours. He endured death and came out alive on the other side. Fear not! He's going ahead of you to Galilee, and He will meet you there.

DISCUSS: God knows we fail but loves us still. Discuss (DDG p. 82):

How does the gospel change the way we view the disciples' failures the night of Jesus's arrest? (we know that disciples don't have to be perfect; Jesus's work forgives us of our sins; Jesus accepts His disciples the way they are)

TRANSITION: As Jesus and His disciples finished their last supper, Jesus predicted their abandonment. But they all denied it. Though Jesus knew they still would, He continued on His course. He would now go to the garden of Gethsemane to pray and wait for what was to come.

POINT 2

THE SON OF MAN TRUSTS IN GOD'S PLAN (MATT. 26:36-46).

READ: Point out Gethsemane (#2) on **PACK ITEM 2: PASSION WEEK MAP**, and invite a volunteer to read aloud **Matthew 26:36-46** from his or her Bible.

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." **37** And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. **38** Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." **39** And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." **40** And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? **41** Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." **42** Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." **43** And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. **44** So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. **45** Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. **46** Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

CONTRAST: Use the content below and **verses 36-38** to contrast what happened in the two gardens concerning salvation and explain (DDG p. 82):

Two gardens play a role in salvation: the garden of Eden, where sin entered the world, and the garden of Gethsemane, where sin met its match in Jesus.

- In the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve failed to obey God's command and ushered sin into the world. At the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus entered the garden of Gethsemane. There, He succeeded where Adam failed, obeying so that many would be made righteous (Rom. 5:19).
- Here, Jesus perhaps is at His most human. Charles Spurgeon said, "Here we come to the Holy of Holies of our Lord's life on earth. . . . No man can rightly expound such a passage as this; it is a subject for prayerful, heart-broken meditation, more than for human language."² Jesus poured out His soul to His Father through prayer, and by doing so, taught us how to suffer.
- Jesus clearly was in distress in the garden. After asking the disciples to sit while He went over to pray, He took Peter, James, and John—the three in His inner circle—and revealed His heart to them. He was "very sorrowful, even to death" (Matt. 26:38). All He asked was that they stay awake with Him. That should have been an easy request, given their prior insistence that they would never leave Him (v. 35). Yet when Jesus needed His friends the most, they couldn't even stay awake to keep Him company.

ASK: (DDG p. 82)

What can we learn from Jesus in the garden for when we are grieving and sorrowful? (we need to pray; we should seek out friends to support us; we can show emotion and accept our grief without sinning)

READ: Highlighting **verses 39-46**, read the main idea (DDG p. 82).

Through Jesus's prayer, we learn that He didn't reject His role but gave Himself up to God's plan, knowing it would come at an immense cost.

THINK AND DISCUSS: Ask groups of 3-4 to discuss: "Would you agree with this statement: 'There is a right way and a wrong way to pray'? Why or why not?" Invite groups to share their thoughts with the whole group.

ASK: Lead in from the question above to the following (DDG p. 82):

How does Jesus's acceptance of God's will instruct us on how we should pray during difficult times? (in difficulty, we can come to the Father in humility; in hardship, we can pray for God's will; we can trust in God's plan and submit to it when we pray)

SUMMARIZE: Using the content below and **verses 39-46**, explain that Jesus felt tremendous sorrow, yet He submitted Himself to God's will.

- Jesus fell face down in prayer (v. 39) and cried out to His Father in desperation: "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." Jesus was not trying to circumvent the plan. He was simply asking if this was the only way. But He knew there was only one path, and He accepted it as the will of God.
- Jesus knew the "cup" of the wrath of God for sin was going to be poured out on Him on the cross. He knew He would face it alone. He did that for us.
- Jesus returned to His disciples to find they couldn't stay awake for one hour. Jesus urged Peter and the others to pray so that they wouldn't enter into temptation (v. 41). In our darkest hours, prayer makes the difference, because in it, we put our dependence on God.
- Jesus went away again to pray for a second time, moving from praying for the cup to pass to accepting that it won't: "Your will be done" (v. 42).
- Going back to His disciples, He again found them asleep. So He went a third time to pray and returned to find His friends still sleeping. But then the time for praying and watching had passed. The betrayer was approaching.

TRANSITION: Jesus chose the path of suffering. He accepted God's will, trusting in the plan of redemption. And He showed restraint when needed.

"THIS CUP"

When Jesus prayed that the cup might pass from Him, He referred to the cup of God's wrath over sin, as seen in the Old Testament. Psalm 75:8 says: "For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup . . . and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs." Isaiah 51:22 calls it "the bowl of my wrath." Ezekiel 23:33 talks about the "cup of horror and desolation."

POINT 3

THE SON OF MAN EXERCISES RESTRAINT (MATT. 26:47-56).

READ: Invite a volunteer to read aloud **Matthew 26:47-56** from his or her Bible.

47 While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. **48** Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.” **49** And he came up to Jesus at once and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” And he kissed him. **50** Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do.” Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. **51** And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. **52** Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. **53** Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? **54** But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?” **55** At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. **56** But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left him and fled.

IDENTIFY: Lead the group to identify the possible emotions from those present as seen in each action described in **verses 47-50**.

HIGHLIGHT: Using the content below, explain from **verses 47-50** that Jesus willingly complied with His unjust arrest (DDG p. 83).

Jesus gave Himself up without a fight because it was all part of God’s salvation plan in His timing.

- Jesus was still speaking with His disciples when Judas brought the mob armed with swords and clubs. They came from the chief priests and elders of the people. They were there to arrest Jesus. But Jesus did not stand out. Judas told the mob beforehand, “The one I kiss is the man” (v. 48). Either it was too dark or Jesus blended in with the disciples, but the only way the mob could identify Him was from one of His own, Judas.
- When Judas approached Jesus with a kiss, Jesus was ready. A kiss from a disciple to a rabbi was a sign of honor, but in this case, it was the opposite. Judas did not honor Jesus. He betrayed Him. Jesus’s response, “Friend, do what you came to do” (v. 50), is not easy to understand. R. T. France points out that “friend” was sometimes used for a “table companion.”³ Perhaps Jesus was rebuking Judas, reminding him of how he sat at Jesus’s table with Him. Whatever the case, Jesus knew why Judas came, and Jesus let Judas know He knew.

CHALLENGE: Sometimes we go through life with problems upon problems, not knowing when God will deliver us. Challenge your group and ask (DDG p. 83):

How does knowing God's timing is different from our timing help us in dealing with hardships? (we can trust that God is moving and working even when we don't see; we can trust in a good God; we can know that what He says in His Word is true; we can learn to remain patient)

DEFINE: Using the content below and **verses 51-56**, show that Jesus showed restraint because He believed what was written in Scripture and knew that the Scriptures would be fulfilled because Scripture is inerrant (DDG p. 83).

Key Doctrine #4: Inerrancy of Scripture: Inerrancy refers to the belief that Scripture is completely truthful, without any mixture of error, in all its teachings, no matter what subject it addresses. Believing the Scriptures to be inerrant does not preclude the biblical authors' inclusion of observations from a human observer, the use of round numbers, unusual grammatical constructions, or varying perspectives on a particular event. It does mean, however, that Scripture is an infallible guide to salvation and that it is truthful in all that it affirms (Matt. 5:18; John 10:35; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18).

- The Gospel writer Matthew said a disciple drew his sword (Matt. 26:51). John's account said this "one" was Peter (John 18:10-11). Peter struck the high priest's servant and cut off his ear. Luke also adds that Jesus healed the ear, an act of grace (Luke 22:51). Perhaps Peter thought his time to prove himself had come, but Jesus rebuked Peter (Matt. 26:52). Jesus's people do not live by the sword. The anger of man never achieves the righteousness of God (Jas. 1:20).
- Jesus had legions of angels at His beck and call yet refused to call upon the Father for their assistance. Jesus showed immense restraint because He knew this arrest needed to happen. He addressed the crowd, asking why they came with weapons as if He were a violent threat. But Jesus knew these events happened so that "the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled" (Matt. 26:56), especially those of the Suffering Servant seen in Isaiah 53.
- After Jesus submitted to His arrest, His disciples fled—another prophecy fulfilled: the Shepherd was struck and the sheep scattered (Zech. 13:7).

ASK: Over and over we see Jesus fulfilling prophecy. Ask (DDG p. 83):

Seeing prophecies fulfilled, what do we learn about Scripture? (God's Word never returns void; He always brings to pass what He says; if God has already kept His promises, He will continue to do so)

TRANSITION: With a kiss, Judas betrayed Jesus, and the Messiah gave Himself up, showing immense restraint because it was God's will as seen in Scripture.

A LEGION

A legion was comprised of about 4,500-6,000 soldiers. In a military sense, it was comprised of the best soldiers. "Twelve legions" mentioned by Jesus would have been around 72,000 angels. Jesus was commenting on how He had a large army at His disposal to help Him if He called to the Father for them.

MY RESPONSE

SAY: Though in the garden of Eden, Adam chose to follow His own way, in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus submitted to His Father’s plan. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the penalty for sin that we all deserve, as those born in the likeness of Adam. Because, then, we have been saved through the sacrifice of Jesus, we embrace suffering as we follow in the footsteps of our Savior, whose mission was to seek and save the lost.

HEAD:

Jesus made Himself weak like us, taking upon flesh, living a life filled with suffering and trials, so that He could become the perfect man to sacrifice Himself upon the cross and atone for our sins. The gospel is good news of a Savior—Jesus Christ—who accomplished all that was necessary as foretold in the Old Testament Scriptures.

How does seeing Jesus fulfill Old Testament prophecies encourage your faith in the Bible?

HEART:

On the cross, Jesus was utterly alone. His friends abandoned Him. One betrayed Him. He suffered not only the physical pain of crucifixion but also the emotional pain of desertion. He did it all willingly without even a single sinful thought. As Jesus hung on the cross, He did so with joy, knowing the salvation He was purchasing for His people. That ought to move our hearts to worship Him all the more.

How can you praise God knowing that Jesus willingly gave Himself up for you?

HANDS:

Jesus experienced everything anyone could experience. By taking on human flesh, He allowed Himself to be hurt. By becoming a man who could build friendships, He allowed Himself to be betrayed. By showing restraint when He was wrongfully accused and misunderstood, He allowed Himself to be wounded. He did that for you. To save you. To save the world.

With whom this week can you share the amazing love of Christ and how He endured suffering and death for us?

PRAY: Lord Jesus, You were abandoned and betrayed. You know what human loss feels like. Strengthen us when we feel the same. Assure us of Your presence when trials come our way. Help us be more like You. Help us to submit always to the Father’s will. And help us to do this joyfully and humbly so that others may see You through us and come to know You in faith. Amen.

VOICES from CHURCH HISTORY

“I trust in the Lord God Almighty . . . that He will not take away from me the cup of His redemption; but I firmly hope to drink from it today in His kingdom.”⁴

–John Huss (1369–1415)

POINT 1: THE SON OF MAN PREDICTS ABANDONMENT (MATT. 26:31-35).

+ COMMENTARY

“This prediction evokes a strong contradiction from the leader of the disciples. He does not know what the situation of which Jesus is speaking will be, but he postulates the worst possible scenario: ‘Even if I must die with you.’ As it turned out, with soldiers coming to arrest Jesus later in the night, that is what the situation must have appeared to be, and Peter was found wanting. But at this moment his strong loyalty to Jesus made him incredulous. He is emphatic: ‘I will certainly never deny you.’ Peter did not know the depths of which he was capable and saw it as unthinkable that he should ever deny Jesus. And in this he was not alone. We think of Peter’s denial because he was the outstanding leader in the Twelve and because he was so vehement in his affirmation that he would never do any such thing. But he was not alone in this. All the disciples said likewise, so apparently their affirmations of loyalty were just as firm and their subsequent falls just as great. Matthew is making the point that all the disciples said that they would not deny Jesus, and later he will tell us that all of them did. He is bringing out the facts that Jesus’ closest followers all made protestations of loyalty, but that when the testing time came all were found wanting. Throughout his ordeal Jesus was alone.”⁵

+ ILLUSTRATION

“Trouble and pain are inexorably intertwined. Overcoming, or breaking the pain barrier, is one of the secrets of victorious living. It is estimated that one of every four-hundred thousand babies born will have a rare genetic disease called dysantonomia. Victims are unable to feel pain and usually die early. Persons, athletes in particular, have their careers altered because they take drugs to dull pain rather than discovering and treating the source of the problem. Pain is not God’s way of punishing people; but rather His way of warning persons that something is wrong physically, mentally, or spiritually. Jesus did not shy away from difficulties.”⁶

Jesus, knowing He would be betrayed and abandoned, in suffering and sorrow, trouble and pain, still walked firmly on the path set for Him. Fortunately for us, He did this so that we may have salvation and eternal life with Him.

EXTRA

POINT 2: THE SON OF MAN TRUSTS IN GOD'S PLAN

(MATT. 26:36-46).

+ COMMENTARY

“Four truths stand out in the Gethsemane passage. First, the disciples continued to fail to understand the danger that awaited them that night. Second, Jesus was alone in his anxiety and grief, since the disciples kept falling asleep on him. Third, Jesus was fully human, longing for the emotional support from his friends. Fourth, Jesus remained loyal to his Father’s will, in spite of his knowledge that he was about to endure the agony of crucifixion. In his death on the cross, he was to endure unthinkable separation from his Father. Jesus’ death was like no other death, heroic or otherwise. This was not martyrdom. This was self-sacrifice.”⁷

+ COMMENTARY

“As we notice the precise language of Jesus’ prayer in the garden, we see his faithfulness:

- The address is warm and trusting: ‘My Father.’
- The petition is humble: ‘If it is possible, may this cup be taken from me.’ In a sense all things are possible with God (19:26) and Jesus could have avoided the cup—by not redeeming mankind. The cross was necessary if and only if he intended to redeem his people. Sin has a price—death—and either we pay it or Jesus does.
- Even as he faces the cup and asks for relief, he yields to the Father: ‘Yet not as I will, but as you will’ (26:39). . . .

We say Jesus is tempted in this place, and rightly so, but it might be better to call it a test, for this hour tests his character and it proves him righteous. We can learn how to face temptation and pass tests by following Jesus.

First, he prays. He prays, ‘Your will be done,’ with exactly the same words he told us to use in the Lord’s Prayer (26:42; cf. 6:10). He prays humbly, from a meek posture, face down. His words are submissive: he does not object to the Father’s will, he simply asks, ‘Is it necessary?’ Second, he asks for help from friends, if only for the comfort their company brings. Even if he knows they will fail him, he seeks help.”⁸

+ ILLUSTRATION

“Prayer is surrender—surrender to the will of God and cooperation with that will. If I throw out a boat hook from the boat and catch hold of the shore and pull, do I pull the shore to me, or do I pull myself to the shore? Prayer is not pulling God to my will, but the aligning of my will to the will of God.”⁹

POINT 3: THE SON OF MAN EXERCISES RESTRAINT (MATT. 26:47-56).

+ COMMENTARY

“John supplies the names of both the disciple (Peter) and the high priest’s slave (Malchus), and Luke tells of the restoration of the ear. But Matthew simply tells the bare facts in order to draw out the message of Jesus’ rejection of violent resistance, with which he will in vv. 53–54 contrast the supernatural aid Jesus could have used if he so chose. Jesus’ sovereign control of the events in which he appears as the helpless victim is thus highlighted. All who take the sword will perish by the sword is probably not just a proverbial maxim (it would in any case be untrue as a general observation), but may echo the interpretation of Isaiah 50:11 reflected in the Targum, which interprets the ‘kindling of fire’ as taking up the sword. Jesus thus lives out the principle of non-resistance which he has required of his disciples in 5:39–42. It is this issue of Jesus’ non-resistance which is the context of this statement; a blanket endorsement of pacifism requires wider support than this one specific instance.”¹⁰

+ OPTIONAL TEACHING ACTIVITY

Lead the group to think of all the times Jesus could have avoided suffering that night. Make a list. There are so many, from the last supper up until the moment of His arrest. After listing the ways, share it with one another. Then consider together how amazing it is that Jesus chose the path He chose. Then ask the group which is more important: following God’s will or escaping suffering?

For Jesus, it was the former. He could have escaped suffering that night. He could have joined Peter, sword in hand, slinging and stabbing and slicing. He could have prevented His suffering. After all, He knew everything that was coming His way. We often overlook the temptation to escape suffering that Jesus must have fought. To Jesus, following God’s will was the most important thing in His life. It was His sole purpose. Fulfilling the Scriptures, completing God’s promises, and bringing many sons to glory was Jesus’s mission. He never wavered. He never failed. He knew why He was there, and no one and nothing was going to stop Him from accomplishing the will of God.

Jesus’s resilience in the face of suffering is instructive to us. We too are faced with the option to follow God’s will or escape suffering. The allure of comfort and security is strong, but the path to joy is in God’s will alone.

References

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10. R. T. France, 380.