

Outline:

V31-35 Pretentious Peter

V36-56 The Place of Pressure

V57-75 -A Disappointed Disciple.

Summary:

Jesus is now closer than ever to the cross. He and the disciples have just finished eating the Passover meal. As they go out to a place called Gethsemane (Olive Press) Jesus tells them they will all fall away. The pressing of olives to extract the oil is a fitting illustration for the pressure that Jesus was under, knowing that He would soon suffer and die on the cross for the sins of the world. As the pressure builds, Jesus prays to the father, submits to His will, and is strengthened supernaturally. In contrast, as the pressure mounts for the disciples as well, they were self confident, sleepy, and fled, forsaking Jesus. Even though Peter declared he would “Never” deny Jesus, we see Him doing just that at the end of the chapter. We can learn from this section that when pressures of life mount, relying on our own strength and self confidence is not enough and will leave us bitterly disappointed in ourselves. We would do well to follow Jesus’ example: commit ourselves to the Father in prayer and submission to His will, and we too will be supernaturally strengthened in times of pressure and adversity.

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Questions:

What can we learn from the disciple’s response to Jesus in Matt 26:35?

When you pray for God to move in a certain way or do a certain thing in your life, are you submitted to Him even if He doesn’t answer your prayer the way you wanted?

Peter did what he Said he would NEVER do and wept bitterly, but Jesus restores, forgives and recommissions Peter in John 21. When we fail or fall short in our walk with Christ, what should we do?

Prayer:

Pray that we wouldn’t rely on our own strength, but our confidence would be in the strength and provision of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Pray that we could be (like Jesus) submitted to circumstances God has allowed into our lives.

Pray for restoration for anyone who (like Peter) is in a place of shame or disappointment.