

The Agony of Victory

Jesus agonizes over the _____ that awaits Him.

Jesus _____ to do the will of the Father.

Jesus confronts Simon for _____

Jesus surrenders Himself to the will of His enemies and the _____ of Scripture.

Jesus watches His _____ abandon Him.

Personal observations from the message.

1. How would you summarize what you learned in a sentence or two?
2. What point or verse did you find most helpful? Why?
3. What is a question you have?

Discussion questions from the message.

1. The **thrill** of victory and the **agony** of defeat are responses to what happens on the field of competition. But the agony of victory is the purposeful pain that goes into achieving victory. What are some examples of "the agony of victory" when it comes to athletics and competition?
2. Read Mark 14:32-36. Jesus often withdrew to pray alone. Why was prayer such a significant part of his ministry? How important is prayer to you based on your current practice? What makes prayer difficult for us? How does a lack of prayer impact us? What are things you have found (or heard) to be helpful for improving your prayer life?

Jesus was "greatly distressed," troubled," he was "very sorrowful even to death," he prayed that "the hour" might pass from Him, and for the Father to "remove this cup from me." Why was he in so much agony? What do the hour and the cup represent? Why was Jesus going to endure the hour and drink the cup?

Why was Jesus willing to pray, "Yet not what I will, but what you will." What are some examples of how God calls us to deny our will in order to do his? What is a specific example or two that you have faced recently?

3. Read Mark 37-42. What did the disciples fail to do? Why? How many times did Jesus pray and then return to the disciples? Jesus addressed Peter as Simon in verse 37. Why does he refer to his old name? How can you be guilty of living like you are "Simon" rather than "Peter"? What connection might there be between their failure to pray and their response to Jesus' arrest?
4. Read Mark 43-50. What makes the betrayal of Jesus so sinister? Why was the disciple (Peter) so bold to draw a sword and fight and almost instantly run away? Why are Jesus' words to those arresting Him a rebuke? What does Jesus surrender to in verse 49?
5. Jesus was willing to endure agony to be victorious. How can we successfully endure the "agony" of living to hear Jesus say "Well done"?