

Marinating in God's Word:

Matthew 26:36-46

As we continue to learn about prayer through the life and teaching of Jesus, this week we encounter a powerful and yet difficult moment in Jesus' life: The Garden of Gethsemane. As Jesus pours out his heart to the Father, how do we grow from learning to pray "Your will be done?"

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

Have there been times in which you have prayed "Your will be done" in both hard contexts and exciting contexts? How were those experiences different from each other? How did your perception of God change or not?

One of the realities that seems to occur with Christ is that as he prays "Your will be done" over the course of three times, he grows in shaping his desires around those of the Father. Have you ever experienced your prayers changing or being shaped by asking the Lord to show you how to pray? What was that experience like?

It could be said that to pray this prayer is to pray with the Resurrection in mind. How does praying "Your will be done" draw us closer into experiencing hope?