

The Jesus Way

The Jesus Way: The Way of the Garden

April 4th & 5th

Speaker: Pastor Joel Schmidgall

Scripture: Luke 22:39-44

Series Overview

Our church has been coming together this Lent to practice the Jesus way. Each week, we've learned a new element of the way of Jesus together during weekend services and set aside time, both collectively and as individuals, to respond to and dive deeper into who Jesus is and who we are in Him. A devotional guide is available at ncc.re/TheWay six days per week with Scripture readings, devotional thoughts, and spiritual practices centered around the Jesus way.

Series Discussion Question

What stood out to you about this week's way of Jesus?
What does it look like to put that into practice?

Message Overview

We find ourselves in a season of isolation, chaos, frustration, grief, and readjustment. We are adjusting to a completely new normal all the while facing weeks and months of new pressures and challenges.

In our text today, Jesus found himself facing pressure, pain, and challenge in the moments before He would face the cross. As He entered the garden, He grappled with all that was to come and shared honestly about His desire for a different path. In fact, He shared his agony and anguish to the point of sweating blood. He was desperate! It might be Christ' greatest show of humanity as He wrestled with God.

In His wrestle, He ultimately came to an incredible statement of sacrifice, relenting with, "Not my will, but thy will be done." In one statement, He accepts and finds resolve for the difficulty to come. Jesus shows us that we can be honest in our emotions with God. Yet we still have to move forward in His will. He shows us we can lean into grief, but we must ultimately come to a place of acceptance. Emotions have to have motion. Just as we are going through the stages of grief, we've got to keep moving. The garden was a place of pressure, a place of anguish, a place to grapple, and ultimately a place so submit and resolve to God's will. We pray that this scripture ministers to your soul in an intense and crazy season!

Message-Specific Discussion Questions

Do you have a place where you spend time with the Lord? What would it look like to find a place where you could do so in a daily, consistent way?

What have been some of your pressure points this week or in this season? What might God be saying to you through them? How can you turn these pressure points into a trigger to pray?

What does it look like to pray fervently and with such agony? Have you ever prayed in this manner before? How do you relate to the story about the Garden being a place of pressure?

In what area(s) of your life are you asking the Father "to take this cup?" Is there anything holding you back from coming to God in lament?

Who are the trusted friends you invite into your trials and ask to intercede for you?

What does it look like for you to worship and lament in this season? Are there any songs in particular that have been anchoring for you?

Practical Application

- Spend time reflecting on the songs that have anchored you in previous seasons of trials. Find a few, and start a playlist for you to use now. Need a place to start? Subscribe to "[NCC Worship's Weekly Devotion](#)" playlist on Spotify.
- Is there someone God might be leading you to pray for in this season? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal a group of people or a specific person.
- Continue to engage with Scripture readings, devotional thoughts, and spiritual practices throughout the week by subscribing to The Jesus Way: A Daily Practice at ncc.re/TheWay.