

FOLLOW ME

The Gospel of Matthew

WEEK 6 - THE SPIRIT IS WILLING OVERVIEW

The second thread we will follow is that of Jesus' disciples. In the days leading up to the crucifixion, we see them struggling and failing to support Jesus in his time of need. From Judas' betrayal to Peter's boisterous claims of steadfastness (undone in a moment when the pressure is on) to the disciples' inability to remain awake during the dark night of Jesus' soul in Gethsemane, they almost all fail to be there for Jesus. The only exception, it seems, are the women who remain by the cross as witnesses of his death. Knowing that it is these exact same failing and flailing disciples whom Jesus will call to be his apostles, we can be reminded of Christ's grace for all of us who fall short in our own devotion and obedience.

Jesus told them, "Tonight all of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say, 'God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

Matthew 26:31

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the first thing you think of when you hear "upside-down"? How does that help you understand the "upside-down kingdom" of Christ?
2. Read [Matthew 26:33](#) and [26:69-75](#). How do you think Peter could go from "I will never desert you" to "I don't know who that man is"?
3. What were the disciples expecting to happen to Jesus? (read [Matthew 26:24](#), [26:12](#), [16:21-23](#).)
4. Why is Jesus the biggest loser? (see [Matthew 16:24-25](#), [Psalm 22:14-18](#), [69:19-21](#), [22:1](#))
5. How do we deny Jesus in modern times?
6. Milton asked us to consider, "if Matthew is a discipleship manual, what can we learn from this story that will prevent us from denying Jesus?"
7. Read [John 21:15-17](#).
 - a. What is Jesus really asking Peter?
 - b. What do you think He is asking you?