

Jesus Was Committed to Christian Community

February 17, 2019

THE
DISCIPLE
MAKER

Open: Share about one of the hardest times in your life. How did you cope?

Read & Discuss: Hebrews 10:24-25

1. The writer of Hebrews warns believers to not “neglect to meet together, as is the habit of some” (v. 25). What reasons have you heard Christians give for not meeting with other believers? Which of these, if any, are valid? Why do you meet together with other believers?
2. According to verses 24-25, what should characterize our interactions with other believers? How have you experienced this in your life? What will help ensure these goals are achieved?

Read & Discuss: Matthew 26:36-46

3. In verses 36-44, what things did Jesus do alone? How do you see Jesus involving others? What are some spiritual pursuits we need to do by ourselves? What are some spiritual pursuits we should do together? Why might we need both types of pursuits?
4. What might have been reasons for Jesus’ sorrow expressed in verses 37-39? What lessons can we draw from Jesus’ example about how to get through times of sadness, grief or despair? How do you decide when to invite others into your sorrow?
5. In verse 40, how would you describe Jesus’ temptation? What lessons can we draw from Jesus’ own example about how to deal with temptation? In verse 41, what additional instructions does Jesus give to his disciples that can help us avoid falling into temptation ourselves?
6. What does Jesus mean when he says, “the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (v. 41)? If this is true, what role does Christian community have in helping us to resist temptation and pursue holiness?
7. Why might Jesus have been disappointed with his disciples (vv. 40-44)? How have you seen believers disappointed by others in the church? What are some ways that we tend to respond when others—especially others in the church—let us down? How should we respond?

Apply: Are there specific aspects of Jesus’ example that challenge your own commitment to Christian community? What will you do about it?

Pray: Pray that we’d be people who demonstrate a Christ-like commitment to Christian community. Ask God’s help in cultivating a Christian community that moves us all to greater holiness.

Hebrews 10:24-25

²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (ESV)

Matthew 26:36-46

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray."

³⁷ And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

³⁸ Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me."

³⁹ And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

⁴⁰ And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

⁴² Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." ⁴³ And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

⁴⁴ So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. ⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand." (ESV)