



Week 12 | April 6, 2014
Twelve Hours Before
the Cross
Mark 14:32-36, 43-50,
53-56, 60-65

Discuss: What does a person need who is:

- overwhelmed with sorrow, brokenhearted?
- betrayed, rejected or deserted?
- falsely accused?

Read Mark 14:32-36. Crushed

[Q] Describe Jesus' emotional state:

[Q] Why do you think He kept asking Peter, James and John to stay awake and pray?

[Q] What are the implications of this passage for your friendships?

Read Isaiah 53:3-5, 10:

³ He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.
(ESV)

Read Mark 14:43-50.

[Q] What does Jesus know about feeling betrayed and alone? Have you felt this way? Explain, if appropriate.

Read Mark 14:53-56, 60-65.

[Q] What does Jesus know about being oppressed, wrongly accused and condemned? Do you know what this is like? Explain if appropriate.

Read Isaiah 53:7-8:

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away... (ESV)

Respond

[Q] On the cross, Jesus changed places with the crushed, rejected and oppressed (us), taking on the punishment for our sin, guilt and shame, and giving us His righteousness. He makes us accepted, frees us from condemnation and gives us a glorious future with Him.

How does this exchange *ultimately* provide good news for those who are:

- overwhelmed or crushed by life's sorrows and need hope?

- brokenhearted or rejected and need acceptance and faithfulness?

- oppressed and need freedom?

[Q] How can this account of Jesus' experience help you find courage and comfort?

Read Hebrews 4:14-16

¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. NIV

Chuck Swindoll quote:

Let me assure you, you cannot have a heartache that Jesus doesn't understand and with which He doesn't identify. You cannot have a physical pain that somehow escapes His awareness. You cannot have a crippling disease, a disability, a grief, a heart attack...not even a debilitating fear... that He cannot understand or feel. He's felt it all. Therefore He's there to walk with you through your most profound depths of pain, if you'll only let Him.

Pray: Who do you know that needs this good news?

Man of Sorrows song: www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7ZJ5D5q54g