



## DISCUSSION GUIDE

Purpose in the Pressing  
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March 25, 2018

**Main Idea** – Palm Sunday is the celebration of Jesus’ arrival in Jerusalem. Although the disciples spent three years with Jesus, they missed what He was about to do because of their own ideas about how things should happen. So, what is the secret to success; to not missing what God is doing around us?

**Holy Week** - marks the triumphal entry of Christ into Jerusalem. What Jesus did during that week is still helping us today. In 30AD, these events unfolded. We continue to mark these events in what is known as Holy Week.

Day	Date	Event
Monday	11 Apr	Jesus turned the tables in the Temple
Tuesday	12 Apr	Judas contracted to betray Jesus
Wednesday	13 Apr	Jesus prophesies the destruction of Jerusalem (the lamenting of Jerusalem)
Thursday	14 Apr 6:00pm 11:30pm	Passover dinner in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus goes to the Garden to pray
Friday	15 Apr 1:00am 3:00am 5-6:00am 9:00 am 12:00pm 3:00 pm	Romans arrest Jesus Jesus taken to Caiaphas’ house Final trial of Jesus Jesus is beaten and forced to carry the cross Jesus is nailed to the cross Jesus says, “It is finished”.

**Jesus was completely submitted to the Father’s purpose for his coming.**

- It was 100% certain that the things He came to do were going to take place.
- **Matthew 21:1-4 – Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them. All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet” (NKJV)**
- The disciples could not see - or refused to see - what Jesus was here to do. Although they may (in some way) have known, they were determined to pin what they thought should happen - and how it should happen - to God’s plan rather

than recognizing and accepting what Jesus had shared with them.

- While we may submit to the will of the Father, unlike Jesus, we are often too afraid to find out what it is that we will be asked to do.
- Do we, like the disciples, add our own ideas of how things should/could happen and miss the plan God has for us?

### The relevance of Gethsemane

- It means “the place of pressing.”
- It is the place where Jesus would say to the Father, “...let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will*.” (Matthew 26:39)
- Matthew, Mark and Luke make reference to the prayers Jesus prayed in Gethsemane.
- It is a place that Jesus and the disciples were very familiar with, as they went there often. Most importantly, it was a place that Jesus went to often just to pray **(John 18: 1-2)**.

### What is the recipe for success? How do we not miss God’s plan? (Matthew 26 – 46)

- When pressed like Jesus, *go somewhere to pray*.
  - We may have an idea of how to comfort or pacify the pressure we face, but Jesus shows us the way in His words, “**...let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will,...**” (Matthew 26:39).
  - We should be committed, like Jesus, to do what the Father wants us to do.
- *Understand the pressing process*
  - 1: The purest and cleanest of the oil is obtained in the initial pressing of the olives. This was used in the synagogues and for anointing. It tells us that *the first part* of what God has given does not belong to us; *it belongs to God*.
  - 2: *The next phase* of pressing produces what is used for cooking and medicinal purposes. This *is for yourself*, to make sure you are in a good place. Are you taking care of yourself so you can help others?
  - 3: The last phase or final pressing produces the oil used to light the lamps. Some of us take all the oil to use on things for ourselves but, that is not what God planned.
- Jesus understood that giving the first to God will keep us from missing the rest:
  - Like Jesus, we will not miss if we give our first (the best we have) to God for His glory.
  - If we make prayer our first priority, we will not miss what He is doing.
  - What we give to God, He gives back to us pressed down, shaken together and running over. **(Luke 6:38)**

- It is important to remember, *“When we do what He (Jesus) did, we get what He (Jesus) got.”*

### **Praying keeps us from missing God: (Luke 22:39 – 46)**

- In this passage, Jesus shared with the disciples what it would take to remain steadfast and to not miss what God was doing:
  - **“Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” Luke 22:40.** Jesus was reassuring the disciples (and us) that the flesh is weak.
  - We must be sincerely committed to do the Father’s will and to complete what He wants us to do. This will require us, like Jesus, to pray more earnestly **(Luke 22:44)**.
  - While we may look for comfort, there are things that we will have to confront.

### **Praying involves confrontation and communication:**

- **2 Cor 4:7-10 - But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed- always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.**
- The crushing and pressing that Jesus experienced in His body is in us. The same victory that He had, we also have.
- We can reconcile the pressure we face by relying on what Jesus did to live in us.
- With Christ, all things are possible.
- The gospel thrives where all other religions fail.

### **Reflective Questions for Purpose in the Pressing:**

1. Like Jesus, are you committed to praying first before pursuing what you think should happen?
2. How are you allowing what makes you comfortable to miss what God is doing?
3. How might the three types of olive oil apply to your prayer life?
4. Can you identify things in your life that you know need to be confronted? What steps will you take to move from communication to confrontation?