

MATTHEW 26 OVERWHELMED

³⁶ Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” ³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

⁴⁰ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. ⁴¹ “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ⁴² He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.” ⁴³ When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. ⁴⁵ Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners.

⁴⁶ Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

1. How does Jesus feel here and why?
2. Jesus brought his closest friends for support. What do they do? Would they be making things better for Jesus or worse?
3. [Psalm 75:8](#) and [Jeremiah 25:15-16](#) show that “the cup” is a symbol of God’s righteous anger at all human sin. Why do you think Jesus repeatedly asks that it be taken from him?
4. What does Jesus end up choosing and why?
5. If Jesus has already drunk “the cup” of God’s righteous anger at our sin, how should this affect our attitude...
 - a. to God and how he feels about us?
 - b. to death and what we fear about it?
 - c. to life and what we live for?