



Series: Unexpected Messiah
Passage Matthew 26:31-35
Title: Prone to Self-Sufficiency
Speaker: Pastor JC Cooper – 8/01/2021

Discussion Starter – Define self-sufficiency? In what way is self-sufficiency different from personal effort, discipline, commitment, and hard work?

Jesus Predictions, Verses 31-32 and 34

- An Old Testament prophecy and Jesus' prediction clearly describe the disciples' stumbling and denial following Jesus' upcoming arrest. Do you think you would have reacted differently from the disciples? Does Jesus already know your responses to challenges you will be facing tomorrow?
- What amazing promise does Jesus confirm in verse 32?

Peter's Reactions- Verses 33 and 35

- What absolute claims does Peter make? What does this reveal about Peter's character and foundation for these claims?
- Consider Jesus' use of the word "assuredly" in verse 34. Why do you think Jesus selects this particular word to respond to Peter?
- What assurances and comforts do you have in knowing that Jesus already knows our weaknesses and failures?

Spiritual Growth comes by Grace, not by Merit

- Jesus predicted and we will see that Peter denied Jesus' Lordship 3 times that evening, but he was ultimately crucified upside down because he refused to deny Christ. What caused this dramatic growth and change in Peter's life? Was this a gradual strengthening of his belief or a gracious gift of God's Spirit?
- Read Galatians 3:3. What steps might we take in our flesh to try to grow in the Spirit? Are any of these steps (in and of themselves) a hinderance to spiritual growth?
- What are indicators that we are trying to "be made perfect by the flesh"?
- Pastor JC said that our prideful mindset is to "Swing Harder", "Yell Louder", or "Prove my Worth"? Which one of these three examples do you find yourself most often "doubling down" on for your commitments to spiritual growth?
- How does Self-Sufficiency Deny Jesus's Lordship in our lives?
- Review Isaiah 53:10, "...it was the Lord's good plan to crush Him..." How does God's word reveal His will in this verse?
- Read James 1:3-4. How is God's will for you revealed in this verse?
- Why and how does God help us to learn brokenness? To whom or what are we to be broken? To whom or what should we never bow?