



Series: From Garden to Garden

Passage: Matthew 26-27

Title: The Garden of Sacrifice

Speaker: Pastor David Menard 4/3/2026

Discussion Starter – Why do we refer to this as good that a perfect man should die? Who in this story can be seen as a hero or role model? What empowered Jesus to remain faithful to His mission in the face of total and violent opposition? Do you ponder these events regularly? What deeper appreciation for this offering of Jesus have you gained as you meditate upon the story?

Review Matthew 26:26-56, (The Arrest)

1. Why did Judas betray Jesus? Both Peter and Judas misunderstood Jesus purposes, why did their reactions have such different results?
 - a. Have you meditated on Judas? It is impossible to see your blind spots, but it is critically important to cautiously and humbly walk in the light that God gives you.
2. What motivated Peter to strike Malchus ear? Was it a wise reaction to the situation? What possible “worst case scenarios” might have followed? What does Jesus’ response reveal about His wisdom, faithfulness, and sovereignty?
 - b. When have you assumed knowledge of right and wrong and zealously intervened to correct the situation? Was Peter reflecting Adam or Jesus, death or life?

Review Matthew 26:57-27:15, (The Trials)

3. What motivated the religious leaders to passionately pursue Jesus’ death?
4. Jesus claims to be the Son of Man, a reference to Daniel 7:9-14, why did the high priest react so conclusively?
5. All the disciples abandoned Jesus, but Peter attempted to follow from afar. What was the inevitable outcome?
 - c. What clues do you see in your life that indicate that you are beginning to follow Jesus from afar?
6. Pilate attempts to “wash his hands” of the whole night. Why does the question, “who is Jesus” demand an answer from every person?
 - d. How do you communicate this important and critical truth to those who are close to you?

Review Matthew 27:16-54, (The Crucifixion)

7. How does the narrative of Barabbas’ release and Jesus being declared guilty inform our understanding of Jesus’ atoning sacrifice?
8. What is the significance of Matthew reporting that the veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom? What did it guard? What guarded the garden after the humans were sent out? (Genesis 3:24)
 - e. What door is opened to us because of Jesus’ crucifixion? What does it mean to you to come to God’s throne boldly? Hebrews 4:16
9. How does Jesus’ crucifixion relate to God’s promise in Genesis 3:15, the Proto-Evangelium?