

The Agony of Alignment

2024-03-18 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Mark 14:32-41

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Pastor Matt once drove a misaligned car for years because the repair cost more than the annoyance seemed to warrant. That is how most of us treat our souls. Then he took us to Gethsemane. Before Jesus prays the hardest prayer of his life, he gives his disciples three commands: sit, stay, and watch. His prayer reflects God's character back to him and lands at the bottom: not what I will, but what you will. Meanwhile the disciples fall asleep three times, which Pastor Matt calls sleeping on your calling. His closing claim: following God is agonizing for a moment. Not following him is agonizing far longer.

To get started

- What have you put off fixing because the repair costs more than the annoyance?

Looking back at the message

Sit, stay, watch is the structure. Name all three before you dig in.

- 1 Pastor Matt drove a misaligned car for years rather than pay to fix it. What is the misaligned car in your life?
- 2 Jesus told the disciples to sit, stay, and watch. Pastor Matt said watch means real awareness of what is happening around you, not passive observing. What are you not paying attention to?
- 3 Pastor Matt said becoming aligned to God's will, what the Bible calls sanctification, is a matter of time rather than a single moment. Does that encourage you or frustrate you?

OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Mark 14:32-41. Jesus is distressed, and the text says so plainly.

- 4 Read Mark 14:32-36. What does Jesus tell the disciples to do, and what does he pray when he is alone?
- 5 Look at the order of Jesus's prayer: he names what is true about God, then makes his request, then submits. Why does that order matter?
- 6 Read verses 37-41. The disciples fall asleep three times. What does Jesus say to Peter, and what warning is in it?
- 7 Read Isaiah 55:8-9. God's thoughts are higher than ours. How does that verse make the prayer not my will but yours possible? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

This is the sermon for people frustrated by unanswered prayer. He named that directly.

- 8 What have you prayed for over years that has not happened?
- 9 About that very thing: could you honestly pray not my will but yours? What makes that hard?
- 10 Sleeping on your calling is not refusing it. It is just drifting. Where are you drifting on yours?
- 11 What is the agonizing adjustment you have been avoiding? OPTIONAL

The group together

Jesus asked three friends to stay awake with him. That request is worth noticing.

- 12 Jesus asked three friends to stay near him in his hardest hour. Who would you ask?
- 13 What does it actually mean to keep watch with someone who is suffering?
- 14 Who in this group is in a Gethsemane season right now?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What adjustment are you willing to make this week, even though it will be uncomfortable?

You might pray about

- For prayers that have gone unanswered for years
- For alignment to God's will rather than our own
- For people who are distressed and need someone to stay awake with them