

MOOREBANK AND HAMMONDVILLE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION
Matthew 26:36-56 – Garden sorrow

1. Why do some people think it was easy for Jesus to be obedient?

Read Matthew 26:36-44

2. **Read Isaiah 51:17 (maybe also Jeremiah 25:15-16, 27-28).**
Why is Jesus anxious, sorrowful, troubled “to death” about a cup (v39, 42)?
3. If Jesus knows that the Father will raise him back up after his death, why is he still anxious about the coming cup? Shouldn’t he just trust that “God works all things for the good of those who love him?”
4. If Jesus trusts God the Father to hear him, why does he pray three times (vs 39, 42, 44)? What are his prayers accomplishing?
5. What temptation is Jesus trying to spare the disciples from falling into in verse 41?
6. Why will “watching” and praying help us to avoid falling into temptation?
7. Tiredness is often an excuse for not praying and not watching against temptation. But Jesus seemed to expect some measure of it even from exhausted disciples (v43). How could we “watch out for temptation” in our lives? What “watching” and “praying” are you doing? What can we do to take this more seriously in our homes, our families, our routines?

Read Matthew 26:45-56

8. Does Jesus seem anxious or troubled in this section? How does he appear? (Are we seeing Philippians 4:6-7 in action here?)
9. Jesus appears to be a pacifist in verse 52 – but how do verses 53-54 explain Jesus’ pacifism here? (ie, why isn’t Jesus fighting for freedom?) How does the context prevent us from claiming all Christians must be pacifists?

Spend time praying in praise of God’s Son Jesus who did not fight back (Isaiah 53:7) so that Isaiah 53:4-6 could be fulfilled.