

Taking it Home:

- In Matthew 20:22 Jesus asks James and John if they are ready to drink the cup that he is to drink. If Jesus were asking you that question, what would your response be, and why?
- If Peter grabbing the sword and striking out at the soldiers symbolizes people taking matters in the own hands apart from God, and Jesus choosing to drink the cup of suffering symbolizes willful obedience to God, which approach most often describes you and why?
- It seems evident that prayerful acquiescence to the Father's will (cp. Matthew 26:42) empowered Jesus to stand boldly and offer himself to his difficult mission. Is there something in your life right now that you need to lay before the Lord, affirming your desire that his will be accomplished? What is it, and how will you proceed?
- Some time this week read through the accounts of Jesus' arrest, death and burial as presented in the four gospels.

Share the Passion
Grab the Cup
John 18:11

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Bethel Church
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Grab the Cup

Jesus avails himself to the arresting agents because He desires to drink the cup the Father has given him.

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelc.com

Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 25, 2010

John 18:11

Quick Review: With John 18 we begin the final rich section of this great gospel account. And specifically we are introduced to the betrayal and arrest of Jesus; a betrayal and arrest which finds an emboldened Jesus entering fully into unique mission for which he ultimately came—suffering and substitutionary death. This is a cup that Jesus must drink so that sinners could be free. It is a cup he wants to drink.

My Story

- Has there been a time when you had a special responsibility or obligation, one that you knew you must see through, but you simply couldn't bring yourself to engage it? You wanted to pass on it?
- Do you know people who seem to seek out honor and glory without having to pay the costs of such benefits? Are you one of those people, and if so what does that look like in your life?
- Can you recount the special blessing or sense of fulfillment that has come your way when you have given yourself to something very difficult or even painful, knowing that it was right; knowing that it was God's will and that it pleased him for you to obey?

Growing Deeper

- Reading through John 18:1-11 and 2 Samuel 15-18 one finds a striking parallel between the rejection and betrayal of Jesus and that of his ancient ancestor David. Take a few minutes and carefully track what those parallels are.
- The synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark & Luke) indicate that Jesus entered the Garden of Gethsemane with a very heavy heart. "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death," Jesus said to his disciples in Mark 14:34. What happened that moved Jesus from being "very sorrowful" to being as bold and ready as is implied in John 18:4-8? (See Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:37-42; Luke 22:40-46 for more insight)
- In John 18:11 Jesus asks Peter, "Shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?" What did Pastor Matthew say is the "cup" of which Jesus speaks? Read Isaiah 51:17, 22 and Jeremiah 25:15 for more insight.
- Based upon your reading of Matthew 20:20-28, is the "cup" Jesus references in John 18:11 something that others can drink? In what ways can others drink this "cup?"