

Not My Will, But Yours
On the Way: A Journey Through the Gospel of Mark
Gospel of Mark
August 2, 2026
Mark 14:32-52

Opener: What's one thing you do to feel in control when life feels uncertain?

Big idea: Jesus walked into the darkness alone so you never have to walk alone.

Outline:

Introduction

The Shock in the Garden (vv. 32-36)

The Failure of Human Resolve (vv.37-42)

The Illusory Power of the Sword (vv.43-52)

The Great Exchange & The New Family

Application

Questions (For personal reflection and small group discussion)

1. When life feels uncertain, what do you reach for to feel in control?
2. Jesus was honest with the Father: "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death." When was the last time you were that honest with God? What holds you back from bringing your raw distress to him?
3. Jesus prayed: 'Not my will, but yours.' The sermon asked: 'What is your "cup"? What are the hard things, the struggles, and the suffering that comes with living in a broken world that you are facing?' What would it look like for you to say, "Not my will, but yours" about that specific thing?
4. Have you ever experienced a season where suffering drew you closer to Jesus? If so, what did you learn? If not, what might it look like to see your current struggles as an invitation to share in his suffering?
5. Where are you most tempted to use a "sword": to control, to protect yourself, to make people do what you want?
6. Jesus walked into the darkness so you never have to walk alone. How does that truth change how you face your fears?

7. Jesus stayed awake for you. He walked into the darkness for you. He calls you 'brother' and not 'traitor.' If you really believed that, what would change this week?

Personal Notes
