

MATTHEW



STUDY GUIDE

Introduction

To begin, take a few minutes and have everyone share one of their first, or one of their most formative experiences with Jesus. When did you first hear the gospel? When did God's grace and forgiveness first make an impact in your life? Or, what was a negative experience that you have had to heal from or work through?

Text: Matthew 26

Throughout this chapter, we encounter a staccato series of interactions with Jesus. Each one presents a different attitude towards and response to him. These responses come immediately after his long discussion and presentation of the heart of the Kingdom of God in contrast with those who keep others from God through oppression or hypocritical legalism. The chapter includes the scheming of the religious elites, the worshipful anointing by an unnamed woman, the betrayal by Judas, doubt and exhaustion of the disciples, the condemnation by the Sanhedrin, and ultimately Peter's denial of Jesus.

Which of these was most interesting or challenging to you? Why?

Where have you seen any of these responses to Jesus in your own journey of faith?

YOUR MOVE

If we want to respond to Jesus with worship and faith (like the woman who anointed him or – eventually – like Peter) one critical step is to engage both our head and our heart.

Which do you default to, your head or your heart?

Why do you think that is the case?

How can you more fully integrate both head and heart – emotions and ideas – into your worship, reading of scripture, community, and service?