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Central Congregational Church
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Are You Willing

Lenten Series: Easter Road

Matthew 26:36-46

(See also Mk. 14:32-42; Lk. 22:39-46)

Central Thought: Jesus calls us to give up control and follow him through suffering and injustice into eternal life.

Matthew 16:24–25 (NIV) — 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

I can follow Jesus because...

- ❖ Jesus understands my deepest grief.

Matthew 26:36–38 (NIV) — 36 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” 37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

- ❖ Jesus understands hard choices.

*Matthew 26:39 (NIV) — 39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, **if it is possible**, may this cup be taken from me. **Yet not as I will, but as you will.**”*

*Matthew 26:42 (NIV) — 42 He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, **if it is not possible** for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, **may your will be done.**”*

*Hebrews 12:1–3 (NIV) — 1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. **For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.***

- ❖ Jesus sympathizes with my weaknesses while calling me to faithfulness.

*Matthew 26:40–41 (NIV) — 40 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. 41 “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. **The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.**”*

- ❖ Jesus leads the way forward.

Matthew 26:45–46 (NIV) — 45 Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

Response:

- ❖ Read the “See Also passages above.
- ❖ Consider whether or not you have truly submitted your will to the will of God. Prayerfully respond to *Luke 9:23-26*.