

## Week 5: The Garden (Surrender & Sorrow)

- **The Landscape:** Gethsemane—dark, olive groves, the smell of pressed oil.
- **The Scripture:** Matthew 26:36-46 (Agony in the Garden).
- **The Wesleyan Connection:** Wesley preached on the "Yielded Will." The heart of Methodist piety is the prayer: "I am no longer my own, but thine." Gethsemane is the ultimate example of this Covenant Prayer in action.
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- **Reflection:** This is the most human moment in the Gospels. Jesus is distressed; he wants another way. The battle of the cross was not won on Golgotha; it was won in Gethsemane with the words, "Not as I will, but as you will." Lent invites us into the garden to surrender the things we are clutching most tightly.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. What is the hardest thing for you to say "Your will be done" about right now?
2. Jesus asked his friends to watch and pray, but they slept. How can we support one another in times of deep sorrow?
3. How do you distinguish between "my will" and "God's will"?

- **Prayer Focus:** For those facing difficult decisions or deep grief.