

# FOLLOW ME

*The Gospel of Matthew*

## WEEK 7 - THE CUP OF SUFFERING OVERVIEW

The third thread we will follow leading to the crucifixion is the “cup” Jesus must drink – the cup of suffering. To understand this thread, we must explore the Old Testament concept of the “cup of God’s wrath” and understand what it meant for Jesus to drink from it himself. We will also explore Jesus’ words of grief just before his death (“My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”) and consider the significance of the OT psalm from which he is quoting. In this message we will prepare for Easter by meditating on our own sin as well as the astounding grace offered by God because of his great love for us.

*My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me.  
Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.*

**Matthew 26:39**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Give an example of a sin pattern that could cause someone to just keep spiraling deeper and deeper into sin, making it hard to stop.
2. Read [Matthew 26:36-39, 42](#).
  - a. What is the cup of suffering? (See also [Psalm 75:8](#), [Jeremiah 25:15-16](#), and [Ezekiel 23:30-34](#).)
  - b. Why did Jesus ask his Father to take away the cup?
3. What is your opinion of “fire and brimstone” teaching?
4. When you look at the big picture of scripture, what is the central image of God’s judgment?
5. How is sin a rejection of the good life God desires for us?
6. What does it mean that God allows his children to drink from the cup of our own consequences?
7. Why did Jesus drink from the cup? (Read [Matthew 27:45-46](#), [Isaiah 51:21-22](#), [Isaiah 53:4-6](#).)
8. What comes to mind when you reflect on what the sacrifice of Jesus accomplished for you?