

ABIDE NIGHT



Knowing what awaited Him at the end of that final week, it is remarkable that Jesus kept pouring into His disciples right up until the end. That alone tells us something profound about His love. It also tells us something about His priorities — because woven through those same days was His daily rhythm of withdrawing to abide with the Father. Luke 21:37-38 tells us He spent those days teaching in the Temple and returning each night to the Mount of Olives — giving Himself to the people by day, and seeking, resting in, and communing with the One who sent Him by night.

We don't know much about what Jesus did on this particular day of Holy Week. Some call it **Silent Wednesday**, pointing to the absence of recorded activity, teachings or public appearances in Scripture— seeing it as a day of silence, rest, and preparation with the Father, anticipating with grief the fruition of the rescue plan they had made before the beginning of time.

Others call it **Spy Wednesday**, pointing to the dark events unfolding in the shadows — Judas Iscariot going to the religious leaders and agreeing to hand Jesus over in exchange for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-16). Meanwhile, Jewish leaders— the Sanhedrin— had already been working to end Jesus' life, closed off to everything He had been saying, teaching, and doing (John 11:45-57). The Bible does not explicitly describe what Jesus Himself did on this day — but given everything we know of His character, we can be confident He was doing what He always did: loving the Father and loving those around Him.

What can we take from this day and the examples of the characters?

Although we can quickly point accusing fingers at Judas and the Jewish leadership, let's consider our own hearts and actions. How often do we quietly push Jesus to the margins — not in dramatic betrayal, but in the small, daily drift toward self-sufficiency? Like Judas trading Jesus for silver, how often do we trade nearness with Him for something lesser? Like the Sanhedrin, how often do we assume we know better, and go our own way, enacting our own human plans?

All the while, Jesus continues to intercede for us, provide for us, forgive us, and pour out His love and grace without hesitation. He fights our battles, guides our steps, heals and protects us. Even with everything looming ahead of Him, Jesus stayed faithful to the plan and kept returning to the Father— he pressed in rather than pulling away. What might that same rhythm look like in our own lives?

INVITATION TO ABIDE

Find your space — your Mount of Olives. It might be your car, your bedroom, a closet, or a quiet corner of creation. Wherever it is, commit to being there with the Father. Bring your struggles, your fears, your doubts. Let the Word feed you and the Spirit lead you.

Now, picture Jesus in those quiet hours on the Mount of Olives — the weight of what was coming pressing in on every side. The rejection. The betrayal. The cross. He was fully God, yes — but also fully human, and He felt every bit of it. And yet, rather than pulling away, He pressed deeper into the Father. He brought all of it — the fear, the grief, the anguish — and laid it before God in prayer.

Sit with Him there for a moment. Feel the stillness of that garden. The darkness. The loneliness of carrying something no one else could fully understand. And yet — the Father was there. That was enough.

And it still is.

PROMPTS & SCRIPTURE

With the Word and Spirit as your guide, consider these prompts and scripture passages:

What are the "thirty pieces of silver" in my own life — the lesser things I've traded for closeness with Jesus?

In what areas and battles of life am I most tempted to trust my own plan or others' voices over God's?

What fears, griefs, or burdens have I been carrying alone that Jesus is inviting me to bring to Him today?

What would it look like for me to "return to the Mount of Olives" — not just today, but as a regular rhythm?

Jeremiah 29:13 — "You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart."

Matthew 11:28-30 — "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

For further reflection, look up:

Mark 12:30-31, Matthew 6:33, John 15:4-5, Psalm 34:8-10, Psalm 105:4, Psalm 119:2, Isaiah 55:6, Jeremiah 33:3, Amos 5:4, Philippians 2:3-8, Hebrews 11:6, Revelation 3:20