



SHELBY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Before and After: The Road of Resistance – When the Way Gets Hard

Mark 8:31-35, Luke 22:39-46, Hebrews 12:11 * 3/22/2026

Obedience doesn't eliminate struggle—but it reveals trust.

What is the most difficult decision you have ever faced? What made it especially challenging?

When you are confronted with a difficult choice, what factors do you consider most carefully?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MARK 8:31-35

Why do you think the disciples struggled to accept Jesus' prediction of His suffering and death? What made Peter's response understandable, yet wrong? Why does Jesus speak so strongly when correcting Peter? What does it mean to "deny yourself" in this context? How does this passage redefine what it means to gain or lose one's life?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 22:39-46

Why do you think Jesus chose to pray in a secluded place like the Mount of Olives? What does Jesus' anguish in prayer teach us about His humanity? What physical reaction does Jesus experience during this time of prayer? How does Jesus' prayer demonstrate both His dependence on God and His courage to face the cross? Why is His submission—"not my will, but Yours be done"—so central to understanding obedience? Are there situations in your life where you struggle to say, "Your will be done"? How can you grow in trust? What role can God's encouragement—through Scripture, prayer, or the support of others—play in strengthening you during trials? How can we remain alert and watchful spiritually when facing trials, unlike the disciples in this passage?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ HEBREWS 12:11

Why do you think discipline often feels unpleasant or painful at first? What does it mean that discipline "produces a harvest of righteousness and peace" over time? How does this verse connect God's discipline with His love for His children? How might this verse shape our understanding of trials and challenges in life? How does this verse encourage you to trust God's work in your life, even when it's painful?

APPLICATION

Why is it sometimes difficult to accept God's will when it involves suffering or sacrifice?

What are some ways people try to “save their life” instead of surrendering to Christ? When have you experienced growth through sacrifice or obedience? What fears can keep people from fully surrendering their lives to Christ? How do you handle times of deep anxiety, fear, or pressure? How does Jesus’ example encourage you to trust God even when His plan is difficult? In what ways can prayer help us submit to God’s will during difficult seasons?

Are there situations in your life where you struggle to say, “Your will be done”? How can you grow in trust? Can you think of a time when discipline—whether from God, a mentor, or life circumstances—helped you grow? How can we learn to respond positively to correction or guidance, even when it feels uncomfortable? What part of following Jesus am I tempted to avoid?

PRAYER