



context:

line by line:

application:

A Jesus Follower's defining moment prayer:

Heavenly Father, I _____ to _____ what you
 _____ more than what I _____.

That Defining Moment

Study Questions

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.

INTRODUCTION

Most of us don't become Christians with the intent of following Jesus. We become Christians because we were told obedience pays and disobedience doesn't. We become Christians hoping that spirituality will fill a hole in our souls. We become Christians hoping God will fix us or fix someone we know. Eventually, our agendas clash with Jesus' and we have to decide whether we'll abandon him or *follow*.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about something you really wanted in life, whether during adulthood or when you were a child. What did you do to try to get it? Did you succeed?
2. Have you ever seen someone put aside his or her wants in order to follow God's will? How did that person's actions influence your own faith?
3. **Read together Matthew 26: 6-16 and compare it to John 12:1-11.** We can't know everything about Judas's motivations, but what do these texts tell you about what was going on with him?
4. Talk about a time when you felt a tension between God's will and your own. What did you do?
5. In the message, Dwain said, *"God's hand can't be forced. His will can't be thwarted. That god doesn't exist."* How does that statement challenge the way you think about God? What comfort do you find in it?
6. Have you ever had to give something up—a dream, an ambition, money, career-advancement—in order to follow Jesus? Explain.
7. What is one area of your life that you need to say no to yourself and follow Jesus? What can this group do to support you?

MOVING FORWARD

It's better to follow God's will than to try to impose our own. Following God's will means wanting what he wants more than what we want. For most of us, that begins with wanting to want what he wants more than what we want. So, before you turn your back on God, before you dismiss him, before you allow your disappointment with him to drive you to a decision you most certainly will regret later, pray the defining moment prayer we wrote down together on Sunday.

Let's pray for each other too, asking for Jesus' help in meaning that prayer.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." Luke 22:42

