

SPEAKER: Ryan Lingbloom

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SERIES TITLE: Defining Moments

Sermon Title

OBEY

Introduction

This week, we continued our series that will take us from now until Easter called **Defining Moments**. Throughout the Gospel of Mark, we see story after story of ordinary people encountering Jesus and having to make real, everyday decisions about who Jesus is and what He calls them to. These moments **define** these people, as their lives get changed when they encounter the King. Through this series, we are going to be unpacking these **Defining Moments** in the Gospel of Mark and how our own **Defining Moments** with Jesus shape our lives today.

Seek the Word: Before discussing this week's questions, read through Mark 14:32-65 out loud as a group. What stands out to you from this passage?

OBEY

Do you find it easier to obey God on your best days or your worst days? What is it about those other days that make it so much harder to submit to and obey God?

- **Prayer**

- Jesus didn't wait until the garden to learn how to pray, or the significance of prayer. He knew, and practiced, that prayer is where we surrender to God until we are aligned with Him. How have you been viewing prayer, and what do you learn from Jesus' demonstration of prayer in this passage?
- How prevalent is prayer in your daily life? Do you find yourself more often running to God through prayer, or pursuing distractions and comfort to get you through difficult situations?

- **Garden**

- Jesus often prayed alone, even going so far as to tell his friends (the disciples) to leave Him so He could pray. But this time was different. He asked the disciples to be near Him while He prayed. Why do you think that is? What does this tell us about the importance of community and vulnerability in our hardest moments?
- When you are facing your hardest day(s), or your most intimate battles, do you lean on the community around you for help, or do you isolate? What motivates you to choose one or the other?

- **Cross**

- *Jesus stayed on the cross so we wouldn't stay in our sin.* When confronted with the reality of the cross, what do you feel like God is asking you to do in response? How does this defining moment-the most defining moment in history-change you today?

Wrap Up

Reminder: **The defining moment of Jesus' mission is a defining moment for us.** Jesus' worst day became our best day, because it opened the way for us to make a choice about who God is and who we are. And when we choose to see God for who He is- forgiving, loving, caring, good, holy- and when we choose to surrender to Him and *obey*, we step into the best thing that we can ever experience...freedom forever in the arms of God. It is the cross of Jesus Christ that calls us in and frees us,

Challenge: Surrender. Obey. Community

We all have a next step to take when it comes to our relationship with Jesus and our interaction with the cross. Take some time today, either in group or after it, to prayerfully consider what your next step with Jesus is. For some of you, it is deciding to finally choose Jesus and surrender to Him. Talk to someone in your group about what the decision to follow Jesus truly means and what baptism might look like for you. For others, you might be in a garden season where your will and God's will are clashing. An unrepentant sin, an apology you need to make, thoughts and emotions that are harmful to you or others. Ask God to help you bring those to light this week, and obey what God tells you with humility and repentance. Some of you might be in this community of a group, but aren't really *in* community. There are things that you are keeping isolated, difficult moments that you aren't letting anyone help you in or through. If that is you, try this week to let somebody in. Ask somebody to stay awake with you in the garden, pray for you, and support you through these moments.

Prayer: Close your time together by giving thanks and praise to God for the cross. Be honest with Him about where you are at, and where you need Him to meet you. Thank God for sending Jesus to bear the cup that was put before Him and free us from our sin. Ask that God be moving in your life and the lives of others so that we all may draw closer to Him, to experience His love and grace. And pray that this Easter may be more "real" to people than ever before, that people will hear the Good News, receive it, believe it, and be changed by it.