**A PORTRAIT OF JOY**

*Mark 14:32-36*

**SERMON SUMMARY…**

Hours before Jesus brutal death on the cross, Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane praying because His *‘soul was crushed with grief to the point of death.’* According to the author of Hebrews, what’s happening in the Garden is a **Portrait of Joy**. How is Jesus, whose *‘soul was crushed’* in the Garden of Gethsemane, a Portrait of Joy? In Jesus’ final hours, He helps us not only understand what true joy is but how we can enter and experience His joy.

**BIBLE STUDY …**

1. Read [Mark 14:32-36](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+14%3A32-36+&version=NLT) – make some initial observations about Jesus in the garden, specifically noting his raw emotions and posture before God. What do you learn about Jesus in this most intimate moment hours before His death on the cross?
2. Read [Hebrews 12:1-2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2012%3A1-2%20&version=NIV) – how does the author of Hebrews help us understand what’s happening with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane? *“For the joy set before him…”* (verse 2) – what was before Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane? Read [Mark 14:36](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%2014%3A36&version=NLT). What is the significance of the ‘cup of suffering’ before Jesus? And why was this ‘cup’ placed before Jesus? Read [2 Corinthians 5:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+5%3A21+&version=NLT) - how does Jesus taking the ‘cup of suffering’ impact you?
3. Considered together, how do all of these verses help you to see that what’s happening in the Garden is not a Portrait of despair or dread or discouragement, but a Portrait of Joy?

1. Read [John 15:10-11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+15%3A10-11+&version=NLT) – how does obedience to Jesus impact our joy? What is it about obedience that brings sustaining joy even if the circumstances we find ourselves in are not easy?

**REFLECT…**

How would you complete this statement: “I am a portrait of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ?”

Consider each of the Portraits [Dependence, Missionary, Power, Compassion, Leader, Glory, Joy].

Which Portrait impacted you the most and why?

Which do you most reflect, and which is more of a struggle?

How has that Portrait of Jesus shaped how you walk with Jesus and how you show Him to those around you?