

HOLD THE LINE

What is the Meaning of Hold The Line- It is not to yield to the pressure of a difficult situation.

We are going through times where there are a lot of pressures. A lot of voices

Many of feeling overwhelmed by sorrow and grief. Things have happened in your life that have deeply wounded you. Close friends and family may have betrayed you.

You may not be able to make ends meet at this time and you're feeling powerless.

You may be facing debilitating pain – or sickness and disease

Today I'd like to take us through the journey of Jesus and how He was able to HOLD THE LINE in His most difficult assignments in His most trechrous journey.

Jesus lead the way and He models for us how we will able to cope in these last days,

Matthew 24 tells us about the last days

Matthew 24 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

We have been speaking about enduring last week as a good soldier and how we stay faithful and focused today we will continue as we look at the life of Jesus as our ultimate example

What is the plot

Caiphas the High priest and the elders were conspiring to arrest and crucify Him

Matthew 26: 3

At that time the chief priests and the elders of the people were gathered together in the courtyard of the high priest named Caiaphas; ⁴and they plotted together to arrest Jesus covertly and kill Him. ⁵But they were saying, "Not during the festival, otherwise a riot might occur among the people."

Judas one of his 12 disciples and closest friends was betraying him

Matthew 26 Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and said, “What are you willing to give me ^[b]to ^[c]betray Him to you?” And they set out for him thirty ^[d]pieces of silver. ¹⁶ And from then on he looked for a good opportunity to ^[e]betray ^[f]Jesus.

In the midst of the betrayal God touches a woman who had been delivered in the ministry of Jesus to come and worship Him,

In the the home of Simon ^[a]the Leper, ⁷ a woman came to Him with an alabaster vial of very expensive perfume, and she poured it on His head as He was reclining *at the table*. ⁸ But the disciples were indignant when they saw *this*, and said, “Why this waste? ⁹ For this *perfume* could have been sold for a high price and *the money* given to the poor.” ¹⁰ But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why are you bothering the woman? For she has done a good deed for Me.

Jesus institutes communion at of the Lord’s supper- there is a dynamic shift where the Passover meal now has transitioned in meaning –

- 1.) In the midst of the trial of betrayal and persecution and defamation Jesus is still fulfilling His purpose – He was holding the line

Obedience to the commission even in the midst of your darkest hour will ensure that you HOLD THE LINE in your life- it will ensure that you stay on the narrow path

26Now while they were eating, Jesus took *some bread*, and ^[k]after a blessing, He broke *it* and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” ²⁷ And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸ for this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane

In the midst of all the demonic opposition as we have seen Jesus habitual custom Jesus draws away from the crowds, the many to Pray.

Matthew 26: 36-46

³⁶ Then Jesus *came with them to a place called ^[a]Gethsemane, and *told His disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ And He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee with Him, and began to be grieved and distressed. ³⁸ Then He *said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me.”

³⁹ And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You *will*.” ⁴⁰ And He *came to the disciples and *found them sleeping, and He *said to Peter, “So, you *men* could not keep watch with Me for one hour? ⁴¹ Keep watching and praying, so that you do not come into temptation; the spirit is ^[b]willing, but the flesh is weak.”

⁴² He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, “My Father, if this *cup* cannot pass away unless I drink *from* it, Your will be done.” ⁴³ Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more. ⁴⁵ Then He *came to the disciples and *said to them, “^[c]Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour ^[d]is at hand and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ **Get up, let’s go; behold, the one who is betraying Me is near!**”

2.) **Jesus withdrew to pray – Jesus was holding the line in prayer** – He was holding the line of His calling and not giving in to the temptation to give up!

Jesus was holding the line- and not flowing with what was easy and convenient or what felt good.

Jesus came to His Father for direction on the Father’s perfect will

Gethsemanemeans "**oil press**" in Hebrew, referring to a garden on the Mount of Olives where Jesus experienced agony.

Jesus was coming to the Father for His anointing, His enabling power to go through the biggest trial He had ever faced- The Cross- where he would take on every sin, and offense and sickness and poverty and abuse for our sake.

Jesus came to release His grief, process His grief and obtain His strength for what laid ahead.

3.) Jesus got up from His prayer ready to ENDURE the CROSS- Jesus was holding the line through continued obedience knowing full well He will be going through suffering

⁴⁶ **Get up, let's go;**

Isaiah 60: 1 "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

How do we as disciples hold the line? Disciples

1. PRAY
2. STUDY GODS WORD AND OBEY GODS WORD
3. SHARE THEIR FAITH, PREACH, MAKE DISCIPLES
4. GIVE
5. SERVE

1. WIN – win souls, cast our nets
2. CONSOLIDATE- make people feel welcome, connect them to friends , consolidate them into a bible study and cell group
3. DISCIPLE; we are going to walk alongside people, teach them to PRAY, teach them to READ Gods word, share their faith, give , serve
4. SEND: Teach them how to God and make disciples

1. We are casting our nets this easter period.....i want you to commit to sowing this month into the harvest of souls

2. I want you to invite people to church- write down names of people the Holy spirit lays on your heart- pray for them every day- then text them that they've been on your heart, then invite them

3. I want you to help us distribute salvation packs

Next step

Primary Goal:

Encourage your people to take the next step in their faith and/or the next step to get plugged in at your church.

- Attend a Welcome Party
- Get Baptized
- Join a Discipleship Group
- Join a Ministry Team
- Sign up to Serve at an Outreach Event